FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 FEBRUARY 1987

Egyptian-Israeli Talks

In a statement carried by Jerusalem radio, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres termed his talks in Cairo "very friendly." Peres called attention to several aspects of the joint communique which stresses the importance of direct negotiations and says that both sides "believe that it is necessary to take the steps that would promote the peace process." The document, which was read over Jerusalem radio, also reaffirms the joint communique issued after the Alexandria summit in September 1986.

Lebanon

PLO official Salah Khalaf told KUNA that four foreign hostages will be freed in the "coming few days." Khalaf said that the three Americans and an Indian, kidnapped from Beirut University College 24 January, are probably held by the Amal Movement or its supporters. The Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas* reported 25 February that some Western hostages were moved to the Iranian Embassy and to south Lebanon and that, according to "informed Arab sources," Syria is trying to reach an agreement with Iran that will allow Syrian forces to effect the release of some hostages.

In remarks to the French-language journal *Magazine*, Syrian commander Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an reiterated that he has no information on the hostages, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The radio also reported that Gen Kan'an issued a "final warning" that if gunmen in West Beirut do not release all kidnap victims, Syrian forces will "hunt down the kidnappers."

The security situation continued to improve in Beirut, Damascus radio reported, adding that some schools reopened and diplomatic personnel returned to their desks at embassies in the western sector of the city. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, a Syrian military source declared 27 February that the airport and all its access roads are "safe."

Regarding the camps war, a PNSF spokesman accused Amal of continuing its siege of Burj al-Barajinah camp, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported, adding that two people were killed in shelling.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military statement reported by IRNA announced the successful conclusion of the Karbala'-5 offensive in the Shalamcheh region. The statement, which set Iraqi casualties at 56,500, advised supporters of the Baghdad regime to "come to their senses." A statement carried by INA announced that Iraqi warplanes attacked a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 27 February. A military spokesman for Iran denied that Islamic forces shelled Basra and that an Iranian warplane was downed, IRNA reported.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry cited by INA "welcomed" President Ronald Reagan's call for an end to the war and urged the permanent members of the UN Security Council to "follow the example" of the United States and the USSR. On the other hand, an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement condemned the "biased" U.S. position and accused Reagan of trying to divert attention from the "unfolding White House fiasco," IRNA reported.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, who delivered a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Riyadh radio reported, noting that Ramadan's delegation includes the Iraqi oil minister.

Morocco-Western Sahara

Moroccan soldiers suffered "hundreds" of casualties during a "major operation" in the El-Farsia area 25 February, according to a Saharan Defense Ministry communique reported by Algiers radio. A Moroccan communique broadcast by Rabat radio acknowledged that "extremely fierce battles" followed an "intensive" Polisario attack and announced that the Royal Armed Forces are in control of the defense line.

Pakistan

At least 35 people were killed and more than 200 wounded when 8 Afghan warplanes bombed 2 border villages in Miram Shah, KYODO reported. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo deplored the raid in remarks cited by Karachi radio. "We are determined to retaliate strongly," he declared.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told a Geneva press conference that his country would not object to quadripartite talks as suggested by Iran but that no such formal proposal has been received, Karachi radio reported. The minister "strongly rejected" charges that Pakistan obstructs the repatriation of Afghan refugees, and he stressed that Karachi maintains its "constructive" approach to the indirect talks.

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Former League Head Mediates Between Egypt, Syria

NC261134 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Mahmud Riyad, former Arab League secretary general, has confirmed he is in fact mediating between Egypt and Syria. In an interview with the Qatari paper *Al-Rayah* published today, he said he had sensed the leaders of the two countries were seeking reconciliation. Riyad declared discussions of this matter have centered on ways of overcoming the existing problem between Egypt and Syria; namely, the Camp David agreement. He expressed his belief that, given the political expertise of the two countries and their strong determination to overcome this obstacle, the problem can be settled.

On the question of Egypt's return to the Arab League, Riyad said all that had happened was there were political differences among some Arab countries. He added the question of Egypt and the Camp David agreement does not mean Egypt has left the Arab arena. He noted, however, there is no use in Egypt's returning to the Arab League while it is still estranged from Syria. [passage omitted]

More Reactions to Syrian Deployment in W. Beirut

'Arafat Comments

JN262103 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1043 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stressed that the Palestinian weapons will continue to be our identity until we return home and that no one will be able to take away our weapons. Brother Abu 'Ammar added: In 1948, there was a plot to take weapons away from the Palestinians. This experience will not be repeated. The plot will not be successful. This revolution came into being to continue and to be victorious.

This was reported in an interview with brother leader Abu 'Ammar by the London-based magazine *Al-Dustur*, which will be published on Monday. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: What is taking place in Lebanon is a U.S.-Israeli plot in which the Syrian regime is embroiled. It is designed to partition Lebanon into sectarian cantons after the temporary Palestinian presence in Lebanon has been liquidated. Brother revolution leader Abu 'Ammar continued: The flagrant Syrian military interference in Beirut is designed to prevent the collapse of the Amal gangs and to continue the aggression against the camps after the Amal gangs' failure to achieve its goals. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar stressed the need for a unified Arab and international position on the crimes of annihilation being continued by the Damascus regime against the sons of our Palestinian people in Lebanon, a regime which introduced a method of killing by starving the masses of the camps.

Brother Abu 'Ammar noted that some Lebanese officials were forced to sign a statement in Damascus appealing for the entry of the Syrian troops. This is an illegal entry, he said. Brother Abu 'Ammar asked: Why were Israeli planes flying so low over the Syrian troops which entered West Beirut? He referred, in this regard, to the U.S. welcome for this Syrian step, which was expressed by Shultz, and to the Israeli welcome, which was expressed by the enemy leaders when they said that the Syrian entry into West Beirut did not tip the balance of power.

In his interview, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: We are fighting a war for existence, not only for our people, but for our entire Arab nation. This is our fate. We will never escape our fate. The commander of the revolution went on to say: We have taken steps we are bound to take, and whoever is bound to take steps should take them. Brother Abu 'Ammar again explained the relationship between the aggression against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and the continuation of the aggression on the eastern flank. He said: Whoever wants to liberate Jerusalem does not perpetrate aggression against Arab land but allies himself with the Arab nation and wages holy Jihad alongside the Arabs and Muslims.

ALF Condemns Move

JN261350 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, Arab Liberation Front [ALF] secretary, has affirmed that the Syrian regime's entry into West Beirut affirms the failure of the agent, anti-Arab Amal Movement gangs to uproot the Palestinian people in Lebanon. In a statement issued here today, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad said the operation, which comes after 5 months of legendary steadfastness by the Palestinian people, has exposed the Syrian regime to the Arab and world public opinion and revealed its continuous military and political support for the agent Amal gangs.

The ALF secretary added that Hafiz al-Asad forces' entry into West Beirut is part of the plot aimed against the PLO's infrastructure, represented by the camps, following the agent Amal gangs' failure to achieve the role assigned to them by the Zionist enemy and Hafiz al-Asad's regime.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad affirmed the Palestinian people's and their fighters' great readiness to continue fighting despite all circumstances in defense of their right to exist, adhering to their legitimate representative, the PLO.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad called on all political and humanitarian international bodies, all peace and justice advocates, and Arab and world public opinion to shoulder their human and political responsibilities toward the steadfast Palestinian people. The Palestinian official stressed that Hafiz al-Asad's fate will be like those who preceded him and the Palestinian people will remain steadfast in the face of all plots against their existence.

Khalaf Says Delegation To Visit Libya 28 Feb

LD261720 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1624 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Tunis, 26 Feb (KUNA) — A prominent Palestinian official said here today that a Fatah Movement delegation, including Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, will leave for Libya on Saturday [28 February] in response to an invitation from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi.

In an interview with KUNA, Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad], Fatah Movement Central Committee member and the Palestine revolution's security official, said the delegation, which includes Khali al-Wazir, Ha'il Abd al-Hamid, and Muhammad Ghanim, will hold talks in which DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatmah will take part to discuss Palestinian unity, positive developments in this sphere, the latest developments in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and the siege and shelling now threatening Palestinian presence in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Algeria To Host Palestinian, PNC Meetings

JN261849 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has said a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue will begin in Algiers in April. The dialogue will be preceded by a PNC meeting, which also is scheduled to be held in Algiers after the Algerian Government's consent to host it.

PLO Envoy in Cairo Said Assigned to Romania

NC261450 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — MENA's Palestine affairs editor has learned that Al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim, the PLO's representative in Cairo, has been appointed as extraordinary PLO representative in Romania. He succeeds 'Izzat Abu al-Rubb, the PLO's current representative there, who will be transferred to another post.

The editor has learned that this decision was made during the recent PLO Executive Committee meeting in Baghdad. The new PLO reresentative in Cairo has not yet been named.

BAHRAIN

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives From Qatar

LD262258 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0835 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Manama, 26 Feb (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Manama today on a visit to Bahrain.

His highness was welcomed on his arrival by Bahrain Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and the Kingdom's ambassador to Bahrain Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had earlier left Doha following a visit to the State of Qatar during which he conveyed a verbal message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar, on developments in the regional situation and in the Arab and Islamic scenes, as well as the good fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries.

KUWAIT

Romanian Military Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

LD262236 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Feb (KUNA) — General Victor Stanculescu, first deputy minister of national defense of the Socialist Republic of Romania, left here today after a 5-day official visit during which he and Kuwaiti officials discussed military cooperation between the two countries.

Gen Stanculescu spoke during his visit with Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and Chief of the Army General Staff Gen Mazyad al-Sani'. The delegation accompanying him had military talks with specialist officers in the Kuwaiti Army.

OMAN

UK Minister of State Renton Arrives in Muscat

JN261640 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] His Excellency Ronald Timothy Renton, British minister of state for Foreign and Commonwealth Office, arrived at noon today on an official visit of several days to the Sultanate during which he will talk with Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials. The visiting British minister was received by the British ambassador to the Sultanate and a number of Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials.

PDRY

CSSR Official Ulcak, Delegation Arrive for Talks

Meet With Al-Dali

EA262057 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, received in his office this morning the visiting Czechoslovak delegation headed by Comrade Dusan Ulcak, deputy foreign minister [title as received] of Socialist Czechoslovakia, who conveyed to him the greetings of his Czechoslovak counterpart. During the meeting, relations between the two friendly countries and the prospects for their development in different spheres were discussed. The foreign minister asked Comrade Ulcak to convey his greetings to his Czechoslovak counterpart.

Nu'man Receives Delegation

EA262059 Aden ANA in English 1645 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Aden, 25 Feb — Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and the chairman of the Council of Ministers, this evening received Comrade Deputy Foreign Minister Dusan Ulcak of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The comrade prime minister welcomed the comrade Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister and the delegation accompanying him, wishing them a good stay and a friendly visit to the PDRY. He noted the depth of relations and the strong links between the two friendly peoples of Yemen and Czechoslovakia. He expressed his profound gratification at the continual growth and development of these relations in various economic, cultural and scientific fields [word indistinct] since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the 20th anniversary of which we shall celebrate next year, for the good and progress of the two countries and in the interests of our two friendly peoples.

The prime minister briefed the Czechoslovak delegation on the principal achievements made in our country in eliminating the effects of the 13 January bloody abortive coup conspiracy.

Comrade Dusan Ulcak, the Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister, expressed his profound happiness at this meeting with the comrade prime minister, and his great pleasure in visiting Democratic Yemen, which reaffirms the development of militant relations between the two friendly countries and peoples. He expressed his strong admiration for the activities of the party, state and the masses of the people of Democratic Yemen, to eliminate the aftermath of the conspiracy of 13 January 1986. He emphasized his country's readiness to provide support in various aspects to Democratic Yemen to boost its economic and social conditions in the light of the agreements and protocols signed between the two countries.

During the meeting, relations between the two countries, the development of the situation in the Arab and international arenas, and issues of common interest were discussed. The meeting was attended by Comrade Shayi Muhsin, the deputy foreign minister, and by the CSSR ambassador in Aden.

Holds Talks With Muhsin

EA262354 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Muhammad Said 'Abdullah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, received in his office this morning the Czechoslovak Government delegation led by Brother Dusan Ulcak, the Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister, with whom he reviewed various aspects of cooperation between the two friendly countries and ways of developing them. Views were also exchanged on developments in the Middle East.

The two sides stressed the need for coordination between the two friendly countries on various issues likely to promote security and stability in the region and on local and international issues of concern to the two friendly countries.

Comrade Dusan praised the efforts of Democratic Yemen together with the other progressive forces to unite the PLO and to end the camps and Iraq-Iran wars. In conclusion, Comrade Dusan affirmed his country's continued support for Democratic Yemen.

The meeting was attended by Brother Shai Muhsin, deputy foreign minister, and Comrade Jan Martinek, the Czechoslovak ambassador in Aden.

Delegation Ends Visit; Departs

EA262118 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Dusan Ulcak, deputy foreign minister of the CSSR, left Aden at noon today after holding talks during the visit with a number of party and state leaders on joint cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields.

In a statement to *Aden News Agency* on his departure from Aden International Airport, Comrade Dusan expressed his happiness at visiting Democratic Yemen and at the results of the talks he held with the officials in Democratic Yemen. He highly appreciated the achievements and gains made by the Yemeni people under the YSP's leadership to overcome the 13 January conspiracy.

Deputy Chief of Staff Meets CSSR Military Group

EA262114 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Colonel Muhammad Haytham Qasim, member of the Central Committee and deputy chief of the General Staff, met a Czechoslovak military delegation led by General (Josef Falik) yesterday. At the beginning of the meeting, Brother Col Muhammad Haytham Qasim gave a detailed explanation to the delegation on the nature of the 13 January abortive coup conspiracy and the measures taken by the YSP to overcome the effects arising from the conspiracy. Relations between the defense ministries in Democratic Yemen and the CSSR were discussed at the meeting.

QATAR

Saudi Foreign Minister Concludes Visit 26 Feb

NC261103 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and his accompanying delegation left Doha this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to this country. During the visit, Prince Faysal conveyed a verbal message to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. [Passage omitted]

SAUDI ARABIA

Iraq's Ramadan, Al-'Uraybi Arrive 26 February

LD261443 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1029 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 26 Feb (SPA)— Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and Iraqi first deputy prime minister, arrived in Riyadh this morning on a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Taha Yasin Ramadan is accompanied by Oil Minister Kasim Muhammad al-'Uraybi and a number of officials.

Meet With King Fahd

LD261851 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd 'Abd al-Aziz al Sa'ud, today received the Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, Taha Yasin Ramadan, who conveyed a message to him from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Taha Yasin Ramadan is accompanied by the Iraqi minister of oil, Qasim Ahmad Taqi al-'Uraybi.

The meeting was attended by the interior minister, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-Aziz; the governor of the Riyadh region, His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-Aziz; the minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister, Hisham Nazir; the Kingdom's ambassador in Iraq, Tarad al-Harithi; and the Iraqi ambassador in the Kingdom, 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin. Taha Yasin Ramadan has left Riyadh for Al-Madinah.

King Fahd Speaks on Ties With YAR, Economy

JN261519 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The SABA' News Agency carried an interview with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia which was conducted by our country's press delegation during its visit to Saudi Arabia and earlier published by the newspapers *26 September* and *Al-Thawrah*.

During the interview, King Fahd paid tribute to YAR-Saudi relations and emphasized they are ideal because they are based on historical, religious, cultural, and social factors. Consequently, any development witnessed by these relations is natural because, the Saudi king added, two countries that share this type of cooperation and understanding emphasize through practice that religion and history constitute the common basis for any nation. As for future prospects, the king said the natural development witnessed by these relations reflects the two countries' nobility and their desire to achieve advanced levels of unified action in the interests of the two countries and peoples.

On development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Majesty King Fahd said that initially it was not directly or organically related to oil. However, the Kingdom, the Saudi king added, benefited from oil during the economic boom. At that time, oil helped the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia build its infrastructure, thus contributing to the development of Saudi citizens.

King Fahd said: We are satisfied with the Kingdom's ability, in all its development plans, to combine adherence to its Islamic values with its introduction of the most modern technologies to modernize and develop Saudi society, which has now developed a clear perspective on all its development tendencies in various sectors in accordance with definite criteria and specific frameworks, foremost among which are political stability, national security, and social and economic prosperity.

On the latest ICO summit, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz emphasized that the ICO summit resolutions that sought to deal with this [Iraq-Iran] war stemmed from the Arab and Islamic nations' belief that what is happening between the two fraternal Islamic countries only serves the interests of the enemies of this nation, and from the belief that it is now high time for the brothers in Islamic Iran to take a practical and positive step to respond to the sincere efforts by the Islamic countries to stop this war and protect Muslims from further catastrophes, especially when we know that the Iraqi and Iranian peoples are the principal losers in this war. Other losers, the king said, are the region's countries and peoples as well as the whole Islamic nation. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with its fraternal Arab and Islamic states, and all peace-loving organizations in this world are still endeavoring to reach an ideal formula acceptable to both brothers in Iran and Iraq in a bid to bring about a complete end to this tragedy.

YAR

Official Talks With Poland Begin in Sanaa

JN261410 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] A round of official talks between the YAR and Poland was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning. The talks dealt with ways of developing bilateral cooperation, the friendly ties binding the two countries, and means of enhancing them. The two sides also discussed the regional and international issues of common interest to both countries.

Brother Ahmad Muhammad al-Iryani, under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, headed the YAR's side to the talks, while Jan Majewski, the Polish first deputy minister of foreign affairs, headed the Polish side.

Jan Majewski, the Polish deputy foreign minister, arrived in Sanaa last night heading a Polish delegation on a visit of several days to our country, during which he will meet with a number of brother officials.

In a statement to SABA' News Agency, the Polish official said his delegation's visit to our country comes within the framework of a tour of the region during which he visited the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Kuwait. He indicated that the exchange of visits by YAR and Polish officials would strengthen and enhance bilateral relations and will allow these officials to become aquainted with the other side's political stands on international issues. He pointed out that the YAR and Poland share a common desire to strengthen and enhance these relations. Concluding his statement, the Polish deputy foreign minister said the YAR and the Polish People's Republic hold identical views and stands on international issues. He expressed his confidence that the talks he and his delegation will hold with YAR officials will be very useful.

The visiting Polish deputy foreign minister was received on arrival by Al-Iryani, under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Continuing Reportage on Visit by Israel's Peres

'Constructive' Talks With Mubarak

NC261557 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Peres said after the meeting his talks with the president were constructive and friendly. They discussed ways of boosting the peace process in the Middle East, particularly the concept of a meeting among the parties concerned, including the Palestinians and others, to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem. Peres said: Egypt's participation today is derived from its practical links to all aspects of this confict.Egypt is able to involve itself in official and unofficial talks with the parties concerned. The Israeli foreign minister said he believes Egypt is continuing to play an important role in the settlement of the Middle East conflict to render the Middle East a region of peace. The ultimate goal of these efforts, he added, is direct negotiations, through an international conference and with the participation of all parties, including the Palestinians. Peres noted: It is clear the Palestinian representatives must be accepted by all parties concerned. Our basic purpose is to discuss all Middle East issues. Peres said he will resume his talks this evening with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to arrive at conclusions to be submitted to President Mubarak tomorrow.

Peres, Abd al-Majid on Talks

NC261700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — In statements following his meeting today with President Husni Mubarak, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres affirmed Egypt is playing a leading role in efforts to achieve peace throughout the Middle East. Peres also referred to the issue of Palestinian representation in the proposed international conference on peace, which, in his view, should be acceptable to all parties concerned.

The Israeli foreign minister said he will continue his talks with President Husni Mubarak tomorrow on the issues discussed today. Today's talks lasted 1 and 1/2 hours and were followed by a 45-minute working lunch.

Peres praised the development programs he has seen in Egypt, noting President Mubarak's positive role in this respect.

In similar statements to journalists, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, described the talks with Shim'on Peres as constructive and friendly. He expressed the hope peace between Israel and its neighbors in the region will be achieved and all difficulties will be overcome, stressing Egypt's efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid invited all foreign journalists and correspondents to visit the 10 Ramadan city on the Cairo-Isma'iliyah desert road to view the industrial development there.

Peres and 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid read two press statements at the outset of their news conference.

Peres said: "Following our talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, we had the opportunity to meet with President Mubarak today. We held a private meeting that lasted 1 and 1/2 hours, followed by a 45-minute lunch." Peres added: "I believe we covered all of the issues. Our talks were friendly and constructive. We discussed ways to make progress in the Middle East peace process. Indeed, we share the view the parties concerned in this issue — Jordan, the Palestinians, and other countries — should face their disputes and seek honorable solutions in a peaceful way. Egypt's contribution in this respect is based on the fact it has practical links with all of the parties to this conflict, and is able to conduct both official and unofficial talks with the parties concerned."

Peres said: "In my opinion, Egypt will continue to play a role in rendering the entire Middle East a region of peace." He added: "In fact, if the need arises for direct negotiations within the framework of an international conference, we will move ahead until they materialize."

Peres continued: "We feel the representatives participating in the conference must have the approval of all concerned parties, and this includes the Palestinian representatives." He added: "It is clear the Palestinians must appoint representatives who are acceptable to all parties."

Peres said: "We discussed the whole Middle East issue in a very fundamental way." He added: "Dr 'Abd al-Majid and I will continue our work this afternoon, so we will reach results today, or perhaps tomorrow."

Peres said: "We will then meet again with President Mubarak to conclude our talks." He added: "I have emerged with a profound impression of Egypt's development programs during this visit. This morning I visited a desert area where land is being reclaimed and planted with fruit trees."

Dr 'Abd al-Majid then read a statement stressing Egypt's extreme interest in pushing the peace process forward. He said: "We hope to reactivate this process, which is of extreme importance to the region and to its stability. It is also necessary if the states of the region are to achieve their goals of development and stability."

'Abd al-Majid added: "We held cordial talks. As you know, we discussed the issue of the international conference, to complete what we agreed upon in Alexandria when Peres was prime minister."

He went on to say: "We will discuss the issue of the international conference in great seriousness with all parties concerned. We are committed to resolving the Palestinian issue. We want to see peace established between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors. It is our responsibility, in our capacity as the biggest state in the region, to work to achieve peace."

'Abd al-Majid continued: "We are determined about this, though it is not an easy matter. We do not underestimate existing problems. However, with perseverance and the sincere desire of all parties, we can surmount these obstacles. For our part, we are working to do just that."

Concluding his statement, 'Abd al-Majid conveyed to the foreign journalists and correspondents who attended the news conference President Mubarak's invitation to visit the projects Shim'on Peres visited today, to see the progress in projects being implemented in Egypt.

'Abd al-Majid added: "When President Mubarak saw this huge crowd of journalists, he asked me to invite you to visit the 10 Ramadan City, where there is a huge industrial complex."

After Peres and 'Abd al-Majid delivered their statements, they answered questions from the journalists.

In response to a question about what was agreed upon in his talks with the Egyptians, Peres said: "I do not want to disclose what we discuss and agree upon with Egypt or with any other party. We did discuss the issue of the Palestinian delegation, on which agreement was reached by all parties." Peres asserted in this regard Egypt has not yet given him any names proposed for Palestinian delegation members.

When asked whether Jordan has supplied names proposed for the Palestinian delegation, Peres said: "I will answer this question in Amman when I visit there." He then said: "New ideas have been proposed but I cannot disclose them now, because the appropriate time has not yet come."

Asked about his meeting with President Mubarak tomorrow, Peres said: "There is no plan to reach any new agreements between Egypt and Israel, because the two countries have an existing peace treaty. President Mubarak has proposed new ideas pertinent to regional issues, but I cannot disclose them."

Asked whether Egypt is mediating between Israel and Jordan, Peres denied this, saying: "No one is playing such a role, though we are all talking in various ways." He added: "What we are discussing here will be made clear through the good offices of the United States."

Asked whether he recently met with King Husayn of Jordan, as reported, Peres said: "I don't think so."

In response to a question about differences within the Israeli Government on the issue of an international conference for peace, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said: "This is a domestic problem, about which I do not care to comment." Asked about Egypt's efforts to secure peace, the Egyptian foreign minister said: "We are exerting every effort to move ahead on peace initiatives, to establish stability in the Middle East, and to resolve the Palestinian problem. This is what Egypt is doing. We will continue these efforts and will do our utmost to attain these goals and achieve peace."

Further Talks With Mubarak

NC270959 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0954 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Joint Press Statement; Departs

NC271335 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was also present at the meeting.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres held a news conference this morning at the conclusion of the Israeli foreign minister's visit to Egypt. Dr 'Abd al-Majid began the news conference by reading a joint press statement in which he said: Shim'on Peres' visit to Cairo provided an opportunity for the two countries to continue their dialogue on their firm joint commitment to stepping up efforts to find a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, as well as furthering their mutual desire for continued improvement in their bilateral relations.

The spokesman [as heard] added: The discussions were conducted in the spirit of last September's Alexandria summit. The two countries reaffirmed their commitment to the joint press statement issued after this summit. In Alexandria it was announced action would be taken to promote the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The two countries consider it is necessary to adopt measures to expedite the peace process and reach an agreement through the convocation of an international conference in 1987, which would lead to direct negotiations among the interested parties on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added the international conference will allow for direct negotiations in a bid to resolve all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In their efforts to overcome remaining difficulties, the two countries agreed to continue preparations for the international conference and expand the scope of the dialogue to include all parties concerned.

Shim'on Peres then answered reporters' questions. He pointed out the talks had been fruitful and had dealt with bilateral relations and ways to achieve peace. He emphasized peace can be achieved through direct negotiations, and if it is necessary to expand direct negotiations, this can be done through the international conference. He added serious and fruiful contacts must be held to move forward with the same seriousness that has become characteristic of Egypt in all fields.

Peres added Egypt has adopted a constructive position and each party will hold exchanges, through the channels available to it, to discuss the prospects for progress.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid then answered a number of questions. He said Peres' visit to Egypt was a step on the long road toward giving impetus to the peace drive.

Regarding Palestinian representation, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said this issue concerns the Palestinians and they will choose their own representatives. He pointed out the Palestinians represent an important element in the international conference. He added consultations will be held with the parties concerned and with friendly states to give momentum to the peace drive.

It should be noted that Shim'on Peres has returned to Israel.

'Maneuvers' Seen Behind Israeli Debate on Summit

NC240911 Cairo Television Service in English 1820 GMT 23 Feb 87

[From the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] Speaking of our strife-torn area, we find that in most, if not all, minds the Middle East problem is associated with the idea of an international conference as a positive and constructive outlet. The Israeli Government also makes full use of that proposal, but not for peace talks or the reactivation of the peace process. For the Israeli Cabinet, the international conference comes as a welcome idea for political maneuvers and outright procrastination. Not that these maneuvers and procrastination happen to be Israel's plan or strategy once the conference convenes.

The Israelis shudder at the mere thought of such phase, since the convening of an international conference simply means an international challenge to Israel's claimed peaceful intentions. The international conference comes as a welcome idea for Israeli political maneuvers and procrastination in that such proposal can be debated by the Israeli Government forever, with ostensibly conflicting views held by the cabinet ministers: some in favor, some against. This Israeli tug-of-war, watched closely by the strife-torn Middle East where the people are holding their breath, hoping to give an ultimate sigh of relief once the rope is finally pulled on the side supporting the idea of an international peace conference, is nothing but one round in that endless game with which the Israelis have plagued the Middle East for so many years.

In early September 1986, Mr Shim'on Peres, then prime minister of Israel, flew to Alexandria for talks with President Mubarak, where agreement was reached on the holding of an international conference for Middle East peace talks, with the five Security Council permanent members attending. Back in Israel, Mr Peres was to hand over the premiership to Mr Yitzhaq Shamir some weeks later and assume the functions of foreign minister in accordnace with a cabinet coalition agreement. Shamir at the helm denounces the idea of an international conference, while at times, to go by the rules of the game, he comes up with vague declarations that give the impression that he is not totally against such conference after all. Then, to make sure such impression would not be given enough time to sink in, he seizes of the earliest opportunity to blurt out his flat rejection of the mere thought of an international conference. This is where Foreign Minister Peres steps in, and comes out as a staunch supporter of the international conference so that people everywhere would say: Now isn't moderate Peres doing his very best, with utmost conviction, against that hard intransigent Shamir? People seemed to forget that Shim'on Peres is the foreign minister of Israel, and that he happens to be the direct boss of Israel's permanent delegate to the United Nations, who has more than once declared bluntly that Israel was diametrically opposed to the idea of an international Middle East conference. We've never heard of that delegate being reprimanded or replaced for having made declarations conflicting with his foreign minister's policy.

What more proof do we need of the Israeli game, now that 6 months have elapsed since Peres' Alexandria commitment to an international conference and we find nothing but an ostensible rift in the Israeli Cabinet conjured up for purposes of outright procrastination? The latest in this scenario of that big comedy is that amusing report broadcast by radio Israel on the eve of Mr Shamir's trip to the United States, alleging serious differences between the Israeli prime minister and American Secretary of State Shultz over Shamir's blunt statement saying there will be no international conference. Shamir is quoted by the radio as having told Shultz that he would call for early elections, if need be, to stop Israel from participating in the proposed international conference. Almost simultaneously in Jerusalem, Mr Peres tells the Jewish National Fund, an agency affiliated to the World Zionist Organization, that an international Middle East peace conference would pave the way for direct negotiations — a statement diametrically opposed to Shamir's policy. How far can human intelligence be so insulted by the protagonists of that big comedy, or shall we say tragedy?

Israel is playing for time. The Israeli Government is playing all the cards in hand to push matters through 1987 without anything concrete for a Middle East solution. Come 1988, the United States presidential elections year, when no drastic foreign policy decision is taken. January 89 will see a new President at the White House who needs time to sort things out and draft a new American priority list. We are, therefore, talking of 1990 or the early nineties when some new American interest might be shown for a Middle East solution, some 3 years from today, when the Judaization of the West Bank would be complete and there will be nothing left to give back to the rightful owners of the usurped land, or rather to those lucky few who might have escaped the frantic campaign of Palestinian genocide.

Paper Welcomes EC International Summit Support

JN261855 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 Feb 87 p 6

[Editorial: "A New Opportunity for Peace"]

[Text] The EC support for the call to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East is a constructive step that should be developed so support for convening such an important conference will grow and all the parties connected with the Arab-Israeli conflict will eventually support the international conference.

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has welcomed the European support. A PLO spokesman also welcomed the European stand as it considers the PLO a major party that must participate in the conference.

The growing support for an international peace conference is an opportunity to achieve peace that must not be missed, that is, if all the parties are sincere in their intentions.

It is clear the Arab side, as Egypt has always demonstrated, has furnished proof of its good intentions in striving for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. It is up to the other side to furnish similar proof.

AL-AHALI: Camp David 'Obstacle' to Arab Ties

JN151931 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 11 Feb 87 p 2

[Article by Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad in the "Our Foreign Policy" column: "Is There an Initiative for Tackling This Dilemma?"]

[Text] Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah's statements during a closed meeting of the committees on national security and Arab and foreign affairs of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council continue to raise a hue and cry in Israel. This is so because Abu Ghazalah was cited as saying the peace treaty does not obviate the need to consolidate Egyptian military power to confront any peril that may engulf Egypt.

Israeli papers vied with one another in accusing Egypt of not abiding by the provisions of the treaty and in stating Egypt continues to consider Israel its primary enemy, that it is not coincidental these statements coincide with Egypt's participation in the Kuwait Islamic summit and with talk about Egypt's return to the Arab fold or the Arabs' return to Egypt, and that all this will inevitably lead to a stand hostile to Israel.

Speaking from a realistic point of view, the Camp David accords brought about a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel but did not bring about a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace for the entire region. The opposite is true and this state of affairs has even started to harm the peace between Egypt and Israel.

There is the Gulf war, which has been going on for 7 years and which threatens to undermine the entire region. In this war Egypt has been providing weapons for Iraq since Al-Sadat's era, regardless of the Baghdad summit, which condemned the Camp David accords. Israel has been providing Iran with weapons for the past 5 years, disregarding Khomeyni's recurrent condemnations of Israel and his claim that his Islamic revolution is more hostile to Zionism than the forces in the Arab world that identify themselves with pan-Arabism.

Some may say the search for arms is a necessity dictated by war and is not subject to ideological classifications or affiliations. Iraq was in dire need of Soviet-made weapons, which Egypt had and no longer needed. Iran was also in dire need of U.S. weapons, and it knew Israel alone had an inexhaustible stock of these weapons.

However, the claims that these arms deals were purely for military purposes and that they were not politically tinted are refuted by the fact the Egyptian and Israeli Governments have had clear political motives behind these deals.

Israel believes Khomeyni's revolution is a lesser evil than pan-Arabism. The Islamic revolution's main enemy is not the Zionists but those who have reneged on Islam and have come to be known as practitioners of the ignorance of God, which prevailed in pre-Islamic days.

Cairo affirms its defense of Iraq and of the Arab Gulf region in general is an expression of its Arab identity and of its affiliation with pan-Arabism. This has begun to disturb Israel, although Egypt's logistical support or military and security assistance to the Gulf are, in reality, taking place for different purposes and in the hope Egypt will get economic assistance from the Gulf countries, which would alleviate its economic crisis and enable it to fulfill its commitments to its creditors in the West, after Washington rejected all Egyptian requests for facilitating the process of settling its debts.

However, the Islamic summit's failure to bring about an Arab summit including Egypt and the failure of Egyptian-Syrian reconciliation are indicators that in the eyes of the Arab regimes the Camp David accords continue to be an obstacle preventing Egypt from regaining the status of its Arab affiliation. Meanwhile, Israel accuses Cairo by saying its anxiety to affirm this affiliation has made it violate its obligations under these accords.

Does President Mubarak have an initiative to tackle this dilemma that will be as daring as his decision to dissolve the People's Assembly on the basis of a popular referendum?

U.S. Envoy Reported Working on Mubarak Visit

NC262235 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2228 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — The newspaper *Al-Ahram* reports the U.S. Administration has undertaken contacts to set a date for President Mubarak's visit to Washington.

In a report from Washington in its Friday edition, the newspaper says the contacts were undertaken by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner, who will leave Cairo for Washington within the next 24 hours.

Mubarak Receives Chadian Foreign Minister 26 Feb

NC261228 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Chadian Foreign Minister Lassou Gouara and his accompanying delegation in the Al-Qubbah Republican Palace this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Receives Habre Message

NC261251 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre. This was stated by Chadian Foreign Minister Lassou

Gouara following his meeting with President Mubarak today. The Chadian minister said he briefed President Mubarak on the present situation in Chad in light of the daily bombardment of Chadian territory by the Libyan Air Force. The areas of Fada, Zouar, and Bardai have been particularly affected, he said, as have other parts of the country liberated by Chadian forces.

The Chadian minister said the Libyan regime is reinforcing its troops on Chadian soil with hardware and personnel to prepare to launch a new offensive. He went on to say Chadian President Hissein Habre is currently briefing African leaders on the issue, so the African public will pressure Al-Qadhdhafi to withdraw his troops from Chad.

In conclusion, the Chadian foreign minister praised Egypt's support for Chad in all diplomatic fields.

Attacks on Libya's Revolutionary Officials Urged

NC172231 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2045 GMT 17 Feb 87

[From the "Voice of the Libyan People" program]

[Text] Brother citizen, where do you stand with regard to the stooges of Al-Qadhdhafi, the enemy of the people and the homeland? What is your position vis-a-vis the members of the revolutionary committees, through whom Al-Qadhdhafi is implementing his schemes to destoy the homeland and terrorize the citizens in every imaginable way? The members of the revolutionary committees are terrorizing, (?robbing), and torturing the people. They kill their victims after torturing them. They line their victims up against the wall and shoot them, and string them up on the gallows. Where do you stand with regard to these people? Do you hate them? Do you despise them? Do you loathe them and wish to see them face the same fate they have inflicted on your fellow citizens?

We do not know what you think about these people and the gravity of their role. We do not know whether you are among those who have suffered directly at their hands, or among those who have escaped their evils so far, which is not very likely. We cannot imagine that there are any Libyans left who have not suffered at the hands of the revolutionaries.

We want you to ask yourself: Is it necessary for them to get to you and make you suffer before you take a stand? Or, if you have already made up your mind about them, have you considered translating your thoughts into action against them?

Maybe you think that it is difficult to do anything about it. But we want you to reflect calmly upon the idea of undertaking some action against the revolutionaries, the enemies of the people.

We are not encouraging you to come out against them openly. We do not want you to assult them verbally or physically in public. This would obviously not work and the outcome would be a foregone conclusion. They have the means to arrest you, torture you, and subject you to their repression. You would be punished without having accomplished much.

What we are suggesting is that you think over the possibility of working against them in secret, either alone or with one or two other persons whom you trust. You could stalk one of them and kill him or beat him up, or harm him by setting fire to his car or his house.

This is possible and would not be very difficult. Revolutionaries are accessible. They are to be found in every town, village, or oasis. They are in every school, institute, or college. They are not all armed. Even those who are armed do not carry their arms all the time or everywhere they go. Not all of them have bodyguards either. They stroll in the streets and in public places without any personal protection. They are not always in groups. Many of them go around all by themselves. They live on their own or with their families. They do not live in fortified barracks. Many live in ordinary houses among the rest of the population and in residential neighborhoods.

Would it be difficult under these circumstances to get them and make them pay in kind for the pain and agony they have so liberally inflicted on our people?

Ugandan Defense Official Leaves Cairo 26 Feb

NC270710 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — Ronald Bata, Ugandan secretary of state for defense, left Cairo for home tonight after a 7-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, he had a meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

While he was in Egypt, the Ugandan official held military talks with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. He also visited the governorate of Alexandria, and inspected a model farm and an agro-industrial complex for the Armed Forces in the Al-Nubariyah area, as well as the new military hospital in the Mustafa Kamil area and the Alexandria Naval Base.

Brotherhood Alliance With Labor, Liberals Viewed

JN200911 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 Feb 87 pp 1, 4

[Article by Zayid 'Ali Sa'd and 'Isa Murshid]

[Text] News of the Muslim Brotherhood joining the Socialist Labor Party [SLP] and the Liberal Socialist Party [LSP] in the next elections for the People's Assembly has raised questions about reasons for their separation from the Al-Wafd Party.

The opposition parties had recently agreed to enter the elections on a straight ticket under the banner of the Al-Wafd Party. However, the Al-Wafd Party's higher committee had rejected the proposal by a majority of 11 to 9. The most prominent opponents of the proposal were Wahid Ra'fat, deputy leader of the Al-Wafd Party; Mumtaz Nassar, leader of the opposition; 'Abd al-Hamid Hashish, assistant secretary general of the party; and Muhammad 'Asfur. Al-Wafd declared it would run for the elections on an exclusively Al-Wafd ticket.

Immediately the other parties acted. Ibrahim Shukri, the SLP leader, visited the home of NPUG leader Khalid Muhyi al-Din where they met for 3 hours. Shukri told Muhyi al-Din of the agreement with the Muslim Brotherhood to run in the elections on a single ticket. However, differences arose between them over the conditions set by each side on the proportion of seats to be allocated to each party.

Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, one of the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, declared: We were not allied with Al-Wafd in the first place and therefore it is not correct to say we have separated from it. All that happened is we agreed to cooperate with Al-Wafd in 1984. It was a temporary cooperation. Now, there is a new development; namely, the forthcoming elections. In view of the fact the Muslim Brotherhood does not have a legal channel through which it can run for election to the People's Assembly and run a campaign on the basis of its ideology, it was therefore natural for us to look for such a channel. After some deliberation it was decided to join the alliance. That does not mean we have embraced the principles of the two parties, for we still have our beliefs. Nor does it mean a row has occurred between us and Al-Wafd, for we still have a high regard for the Al-Wafd Party and its leadership.

Al-Hudaybi added: Through our presence in the People's Assembly we seek to always remind people of God's law when ever any law or legislation is discussed or whenever the government is questioned. We have formed committees to discuss the best candidates for each constituency while coordinating with the SLP and LSP.

Al-Akhbar has learned from a reliable source an agreement has been reached on the final form of the unified ticket on which the SLP, the LSP, and the Muslim Brotherhood will run, in which the Muslim Brotherhood will be allocated 50 percent of the names on the ticket, the SLP will be allocated 30 percent of the names on the ticket, and 20 percent of the names on the unified ticket will be allocated to the LSP.

Newly Formed Party Boycotts General Elections

NC241221 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The general secretariat of the Nasirite Arab Socialist Party [Al-Hizb al-Ishtiraki al-'Arabi al-Nasir] has decided to boycott the forthcoming general elections in Egypt. It is, however, allowing its members to run as independents in coordination with the NPUG. This was announced following the party's constitutent committee's meetings last Saturday and Sunday. The committee discussed documents and formalities concerning the party's formation during these meetings, and also elected members of the general secretariat.

Reagan's Call for End to Gulf War Welcomed

JN261717 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — Iraq has welcomed U.S. President Ronald Reagan's call for an end to the Iraq-Iran war based on a cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of forces, safeguards for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and Iran, and a resolution to the conflict through negotiations.

In a statement today, a Foreign Ministry spokesman welcomed the U.S. President's call in order to emphasize the importance of striving for this objective now.

The spokesman said the U.S. President's assertion of Iran's responsibility for contining the war confirms what the entire international community should stress to pressure the aggressor Iranian regime, which insists on the war, so that it will desist from its aggression and heed the call of peace.

The spokesman emphasized Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the UN Security Council to bring about a comprehensive and lasting solution to the conflict in accord with the five principles declared by President Saddam Husayn on 2 August 1986. These principles are based on international law and the norms for resolving disputes among states by peaceful means, and they are compatible with Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 582 of 1986, and the resolutions and appeals of other international bodies.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman appealed to Security Council members, especially the permanent members, to follow the example of the Soviet Union and the United States, which have officially declared their stands, and to declare similar stands and fulfill their responsibility, within the framework of the Security Council and in accord with the UN Charter, to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

The spokesman urged that the measures stated in the UN Charter be taken against the Iranian regime, which insists on continuing the war and threatening the security and stability of the region and of the whole world.

Additional Reports on Fighting in Gulf War

Communique Reports F-5 Downed

JN261756 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Communique No 2,585 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 February 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's victorious forces have continued to inflict severe punishment on the Khomeyniite scoundrels, affirming through their activities Iraq's and the Iraqi Army's superiority over the anti-Arab, Zionist, racist clique. The following is a summary of the activities of last night and today.

1. In the sector of the heroic II Army Corps, the enemy this morning tried to intercept our brave units in the Tallat al-Qannasin area within the heroic Dhulfaqar Forces' area of operations. Our brave forces confronted the enemy force and killed or wounded 300 scoundrels. The few remnants escaped. The enemy only reaped defeat and disappointment. The situation in this sector was settled in favor of our victorious forces. Blessed be the strong men of the heroic Dhulfaqar Forces. Praise be to God for his victory.

2. Last night and today, a number of enemy groups attempted to intercept our brave forces on our defensive lines in the sector of the heroic III Army Corps. Our brave units confronted them with artillery, tank, and mortar barrages, supported by our daring Air Force and brave helicopter knights. Our forces inflicted heavy losses on the aggressor, imposed their control over the situation, and confirmed the Iraqi men's steadfastness in the face of the forces of evil, crime, and injustice.

3. Our heroic Air Force today supported our ground units, inflicting heavy losses on the aggressors in personnel, weapons, equipment, and vehicles. After carrying out 11 combat missions, our aircraft returned safely to their bases in God's care and protection.

4. The helicopter gunships today inflicted heavy losses on the aggressors in 81 combat sorties. The brave helicopter knights destroyed a number of enemy assembly points and quantities of the scoundrels' weapons, equipment, and vehicles. Our knights then returned with their aircraft safely and triumphantly to their bases in God's care and protection.

5. The glorious VII Army Corps continued as usual to reap the rotten Khomeyniites' heads and to support the heroic III Army Corps units. They also killed six enemy personnel and wounded others; they destroyed and burned two vehicles; they destroyed a number of weapon emplacements and positions and killed a number of scoundrels in them; and they destroyed four ammunition dumps, one observation post, and one 106-mm gun mounted on a vehicle.

6. One of our patrols attacked an enemy boat loaded with personnel in front of our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris. Our heroic patrol killed all those on the boat, captured one enemy soldier, seized the boat, and returned with the boat to their bases safely, praise be to God.

7. An enemy F-5 aircraft attempted to violate our international border in the III Army Corps sector yesterday morning. Our ground defenses confronted the enemy aircraft and shot it down. God bless our brave men of the ground defenses.

8. The criminal Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery, damaging civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 February 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN271322 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 27 February 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In implementation of our great people's will to destroy the tyrant Khomeyniites' supplies and oil resources, which they use against our dear country, the planes of our gigantic Air Force dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1215 [0915 GMT]. All of our planes returned safely and triumphantly to the homeland. Praise be to God.

[Dated] 27 February 1987

Commander on Preparations for 'Decisive Victory'

JN270753 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) — A senior Iraqi military commander has stated that the Iraqi Armed Forces are ready to foil any new hostile adventure by the Iranian rulers.

In an interview with the Defense Ministry newspaper *Al-Qadisiyah* published today, the commander of the special Fatah al-Futuh Forces said the battle for which the Iranian enemy had long planned and on which it pinned all hopes to reach Basra and settle the war in its favor has turned into a disaster for the enemy. He added that the Iranian forces are completely unable to confront the Iraqi Armed Forces, which are in control of the situation in all operational sectors and have completed preparations for a decisive victory over the Iranian forces.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Delegation Leave for Riyadh

JN261237 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Saudi Arabia today. In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, dealing with bilateral relations, the need to develop them in all fields, and the current Arab situation, the foremost of which is the Iraq-Iran war. The first deputy prime minister voiced the pride and appreciation of the Iraqi leadership and people for the developing relations between the two countries. He indicated that his visit falls within the framework of coordination and consultation between Iraq and Saudi Arabia to bolster joint Arab action in the face of the challenges and conspiracies confronting the Arab nation.

The first deputy prime minister is accompanied by a delegation composed of Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi and officials from various ministries. He was seen off by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; a number of ministers; and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad.

Deposed Mayor, Papers on Israeli Summit Stance

Gaza's Al-Shawwa Interviewed

JN261043 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Feb 87 pp 24, 19

[Text] Rashad al-Shawwa, deposed Gaza mayor and president of the Gaza Strip Charity Association, has called on Israel to seriously contemplete the need for convening an international peace conference to resolve the Middle East crisis. He said it is in Israel's interest in the first place because the Arabs and Palestinians have lost everything, have nothing left to worry about, and are therefore adopting more extremist stands than before.

In an interview with *Al-Dustur*, Al-Shawwa said he hopes Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is serious about his stand on the international conference. He also said he hopes Peres will adopt a firm stand in this regard and pressure Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to convince him about he conference. In response to a question about the EC countries' call for convening the conference, Al-Shawwa said: We view this stand with great satisfaction and hope. It is a first step toward arriving at a formula to secure Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 in which the Israeli authorities have endeavored over the past 20 years to create a new reality and consequently placea settlement for this issue beyond reach.

On the development plans in the Gaza Strip, Al-Shawwa explained 3.5 million Jordanian dinars have been allocated for the establishment of new trade, industrial, housing, and development projects in the Strip financed by the Jordanian treasury. He said these funds will be distributed among these projects according to priority, need, and economic feasibility during 1987. Al-Shawwa urged the Arab countries to understand the Jordanian stand on developing the occupied Arab territories to bolster the steadfastness of the kinfolk there. He also urged these countries to provide the necessary funds for this plan and not to leave Jordan to shoulder this responsibility alone.

On the reactions of citizens in the occupied Arab territories to the recent decision to support employees appointed after 1967, Al-Shawwa said this decision was received with gratitude and satisfaction, and any support to any employee in the occupied homeland would enable him to cling more strongly to his land and homeland.

Peres Motives Questioned

JN251233 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Feb 87 pp 1, 19

[News Analysis: "Peres' Visit and the International Conference"]

[Text] A few days before the departure of the prime minister of the Zionist enemy [Yitzhaq Shamir, for the United States] the idea of an international peace conference was discussed by the Israeli Cabinet in response to signals by the U.S. Administration that the United States is prepared to discuss the convening of an international conference to settle the Middle East question. Before Shamir returned from his trip to the United States, Peres decided to visit Cairo to discuss the international peace conference. The current furor in Israel over the issue can be examined through the following points:

1. In a speech after his meeting with Shamir, President Reagan said that according to the U.S. concept the international peace conference is an opening ceremony that leads to direct negotiations. George Shultz expressed such a U.S. stand in several statements he made during Shamir's visit.

2. As far as internal Israeli politics are concerned, there is a possibility Peres wants to embarrass Shamir to bring about his resignation so the Labor alignment will have the opportunity to return to power in a coalition with the smaller parties or through elections. Peres' optimism is misplaced, for fanaticism rules the Israeli street and if new elections were to be held Likud and the religious parties may win a majority, as in 1977.

The Peres move may have repercussions within the Israeli Government and may lead to its dissolution and the calling for new elections.

3. Peres has mastered the diplomacy of deception and achieved gains from it by giving the impression Israel is prepared to accept an international peace conference. The difference between Shamir and Peres is that Shamir rejects, even in principle, any umbrella [for talks] in the form of an international conference.

4. It is certain the harmony between Peres and the U.S. Administration over the international conference issue aims to extort gains from the Soviet Union over the issue of Soviet Jews and the recognition of Israel, and also aims to sow doubts in the Arab homeland. However, the Arab states concerned are alert to such a plot. For them the international conference issue is not a formality but an expression of the will of the international community to achieve a just and comprehensive solution. Therefore, such divergence of views over the international conference and raising the issue in the U.S.-Israeli manner aims merely to throw dust in the eyes of the Arabs and the world.

U.S., Israel 'Impede' Peace

JN251312 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Feb 87 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Israeli Reaction to the European Statement"]

[Text] In addition to the cultural, human, economic and social considerations of the EC statement on the Middle East question, a more important result of its release at this particular time is that it represents an advanced step in the gloomy Middle East situation and an attempt to eliminate the deadlock regarding comprehensive negotiations — the logical alternative to continuous bloodshed.

While thanking the EC for adopting a fair and reasonable position by supporting the idea of an international conference as the only solution for the region's crisis, we believe Jordan has a leading role to play in consolidating this position and encouraging the trend toward peace. This position has emerged following King

Husayn's intensive efforts in many European countries during which he explained Jordan's firm principles on the peace process, particularly with regard to holding an international conference attended by all concerned sides as well as the UN Security Council's five permanent member-states.

With the European statement asserting the need to hold an international conference, an overall picture emerges of the forces that seek and support peace, and the real enemies of the idea of the peace conference and every peace effort. The United States and the Zionist entity are the sides opposing this idea and trying to impede the peace process. Israel could even launch a military operation against the region to undermine the resolutions calling for peace and thus bring the international community face to face with a new situation.

Historical facts confirm the possibility that this could happen. If we take into consideration the disagreement between Israel's leaders, Shamir and Peres, over the international conference and the attempts to employ this disagreement to undermine the "national coalition" government, it is even more likely Israel will undertake a military operation designed primarily to achieve internal "unity" and external fragmentation of the positive position agreed upon by the overwhelming majority of the international community.

In view of the dangers that could emanate from the Israeli intransigence on the convocation of the international conference, dangers that must be taken into consideration, the exposure of the Israeli position and its U.S. support, as well as the facts about the Israeli aggressiveness, all the forces that have expressed a peaceful, principled stand toward our region should adhere to their convictions and ignore the Israeli and U.S. efforts to obstruct peace as long as these convictions can help free the international will and cause it to move in the right direction.

Therefore, we are grateful to the EC. It is a strong voice we are hearing today, and we hope one day it will become a fact that overcomes all Israeli and U.S. obstruction.

AL-RA'Y Views EC Stance

JN251358 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Feb 87 p 24

[Political editor's article: "European Resolutions and Arab Resolutions"]

[Text] The new European document is important and special. It can be important if the Arabs are able to give it political dynamism by adopting a clear studied stand.

The Europeans are convinced of the need to convene an international conference for peace in the region under the UN resolutions and tent. This means implementing Resolution 242, not discussing it as had happened in Camp David. They are also concerned about restating the Venice Declaration, which acknowledges the Palestinians' right to self-determination on their land.

The European document is important and special. But it will remain a document if Arab action does not turn it into a motivating and mobilizing force on the international level. The European force is not an independent force that moves freely, but is a supporting force that requires the efficiency of the Arab side so it can turn into a pressure force in the Western camp. Furthermore, Europe is a rational force which understands the USSR's status in the region and knows the USSR cannot be overlooked in the American way or blackmailed in the Israeli way.

The key point, therefore, is the efficiency of the Arab side. It is the ability of the Arab side to create a studied unified stand and emerge from the current impasse.

The real reason behind the importance of the international conference and Arab and European unanimity over it is the United States' failure to formulate its own special policy for the region. Anwar al-Sadat's fatal error might have been his belief that the United States had a special policy for the region and that it was possible to neutralize the United States and turn it into a "full partner" in his negotiation with Israel. Al-Sadat might have discovered in his last days, especially after the Ismailia meeting with Menahem Begin, that he was in fact negotiating with Israel twice; first in Washington and then in Jerusalem; first with the President of the United States and then with the prime minister of Israel. In each case, however, he was negotiating with the same side — Israel and an Israeli side with an American face.

The Arab demand for an international conference means Arab rejection of dealing singly with Washington and means returning to the UN formula. What is required now is not negotiating the basis of Resolution 242 — for this basis needs no further negotiation — but negotiating the procedures of its implementation. This Security Council resolution already tackles the point of "secure borders" and their definitions. So what is left is to draw up a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The Israeli Labor Party, which agrees now on "an international formula" and even an international conference, is wagering the Arabs would disagree among themselves before, during, and after the conference and the time-saving game would be brought about by Arab disagreement rather than by the Likud rejection, whose drums are beaten by Yitzhaq Shamir in New York.

The European step is important and special and what remains is the Arab step.

'Timing' of Reagan Gulf War Appeal 'Intriguing'

JN270956 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Feb 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Reagan's Appeal"]

[Text] Yesterday, the Tower committee investigating the U.S. secret arms deal with Iran released its report, which criticized President Reagan for his failure to exercise enough control over the National Security Council staff implicated in the scandal. Hours before the report was released, President Reagan appealed for an end to the Iraq-Iran war and urged the international community to move toward that end.

One is struck by both the timing and source of this appeal. The appeal was timed to coincide with the Tower report's publication. The aim was to absorb the shock of the report, which pointed accusations at the U.S. President himself. It is intriguing and suprising the indicted president made the appeal to end the Gulf war as if the dangers inherent in the Iran-Iraq conflict dawned on Reagan only now, and as if it was not his Administration that fanned its flames with secret arms deals to Iran while it declared opposition to supplying the Iranian regime with arms. Thus, President Reagan's appeal sounds like an attempt to regain lost American credibility with the Arabs. He would have done better if he had acted on his appeal within his Administration, unless he was unaware of what was happening or unable to control his government. Whatever the case may have been, it is hard to believe his appeal.

It was the U.S. Administration that supplied the Iranians with weapons, setting a bad example for others who followed suit. Washington should, therefore, furnish evidence it has ceased fomenting the Iran-Iraq war, and will not play the same unclean game of doing the opposite of what it preaches.

Noted political observers are saying the Tower committee report has lowered President Reagan's standing, and it may indeed affect his future. While this conclusion is an American concern, it will, in the future, be a yardstick for judging promises and appeals by U.S. presidents. Lost credibility cannot be regained through promises and appeals, but through sustained and open action. It must be this way if we are to believe the U.S. policy that fanned the flames of the Iran-Iraq war has changed. Failing that, Reagan's appeal will not succeed in embellishing the American face in the eyes of the Arabs and the world.

AL-RA'Y Praises EC Aid to Occupied Territory

JN261015 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Feb 87 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The European Stand and the Kinfolk's Suffering"]

[Text] The EC member states were not satisfied with expressing their concern over the lack of stability in the Middle East and the continuation of tension and conflict in this region. They were also not satisfied with expressing their fear of future possibilities, but also coupled all that with a frank call for convening an international conference. In fact, these states pondered the harsh conditions suffered by the people of this region, especially the inhabitants of the occupied territories who are exposed to all kinds of economic and psychological pressure and harassment due to the lack of peace and stability as well as the continuation of the occupation, conditions our kinfolk are facing with exemplary courage despite their harshness.

The statement issued by the foreign ministers of the 12 EC member-states dwelt at length on the sufferings of our kinfolk and emphasized the need to improve their living conditions, especially their economic, social, cultural, and administrative affairs. In light of this attitude toward our kinfolk and their sufferings, the statement announced that the EC decided to extend aid to the inhabitants of the occupied territories and to give special preference to their products in an effort to alleviate their sufferings, as well as to confront the economic blockade the Israeli entity has imposed on our kinfolk and their products, especially their agricultural produce. Our kinfolk there are facing a fierce war that has taken different forms to increase the pressure on them and to force them to leave their land. This pressure has taken, among other things, the form of organized terrorism.

The European attitude translated into practical measures such as giving aid to our people or giving special preference to their products, affirms the need to exert every effort in this direction. Foiling enemy plans to empty the land of its inhabitants by undermining their steadfastness, is not only a humanitarian but also a national and pan-Arab responsibility that calls for everyone's participation. The Israeli occupation authorities realize the Palestinian's steadfastness on his land and the backing of this steadfastness by every national and pan-Arab effort foil Israel's Judaization and expansionist policies and keep the issue and world interest alive. All this would not have happened were it not for Jordan's alertness and call on its Arab brothers and friends to assume their duty. The European stand is best proof. The EC has affirmed what we have previously said — backing our kinfolk and their steadfastness is not linked to political solutions. This affirmation was clear in the recent European statement.

Royal Decree Prorogues Parliament 1 March

JN261302 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Amman — A royal decree has been issued proroguing the parliament's ordinary session on 1 March in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 78 of the Constitution.

AL-QABAS on Syrian Plans in Beirut, Hostages

JN261547 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Feb 87 p 23

[Text] Paris — Well-informed Arab sources have revealed to *Al-Qabas* that Syrian officials have informed prominent Western quarters that they are determined to send their forces into Beirut's southern suburb, which is controlled by pro-Iranian elements, in a few days, and that the instructions given to those in charge of implementing the new Syrian plan in the Lebanese capital provide for making efforts to release Western hostages, or at least some of them, as soon as possible.

Al-Qabas has also learned from well-informed Western sources that the Western hostages were recently moved from the locations where they were previously held and that some of them are now in the Iranian Embassy in West Beirut.

Following President Hafiz al-Asad's agreement to send Syrian forces into West Beirut to control the security situation there, Damascus initiated contacts with several Arab, Muslim, and Western capitals directly concerned with Lebanese developments to notify them of Syria's new plans or to consult with them on the deployment of the Syrian forces in Beirut. These capitals include Tehran, Washington, Paris, and London as well as major Arab capitals.

Al-Qabas has learned from well-informed U.S. sources that Syrian officials officially informed the U.S. Administration through the U.S. Embassy in Damascus on the afternoon of 20 February that they intended to send their forces into West Beirut to control security; that is, prior to the signing of the final agreement on the entry of Syrian forces into West Beirut and during President Amin al-Jumayyil's stay in Paris.

Al-Qabas has also learned that Syrian officials have informed officials in three major Western capitals in the past 2 days of their new moves in Beirut which could be summarized as follows:

1. The Syrian forces will enter Beirut's southern suburb in a few days to control the security situation there. An understanding of this move was reached during the meetings held in Damascus at the end of last week between President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials and Husayn al-Husayni, Lebanese Chamber of Deputies speaker; Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami; Walid Junblatt; Nabih Birri; and Salim al-Huss [Lebanese minister of labor and education]. It was agreed during the Damascus meetings that West Beirut's security is indivisible, and that the success of the new Syrian security plan requires the entry of the Syrian forces into Beirut's southern suburb to fully control the situation there. Beirut's southern suburb is a major stronghold of pro-Iranian elements and is controlled by the pro-Iranian Hizballah militias and the Amal militias. However, the pro-Iranian elements have greater influence in Beirut's southern suburb than the Amal militias, particularly after a great part of the Hizballah militias moved there from Al-Biqa'.

There was a Syrian attempt to enter Beirut's southern suburb last July [as published], but the attempt failed.

2. The Syrian forces will attempt to deploy in the southern suburb through dialogue and understanding. If peaceful methods fail, the Syrian forces will use various methods to enter the southern suburb within the framework of the new security plan.

3. At this time, the Syrian forces do not intend to enter East Beirut. In any case, these forces will only enter East Beirut in response to an official request by the Christian leaders similar to the request made by the Islamic Lebanese leaders. The Syrians believe if the security plan in West Beirut succeeds, it will create suitable circumstances for the Syrian forces' entry into East Beirut at a later stage.

4. The Syrian forces do not intend to move toward southern Lebanon because their present mission is confined to controlling the security situation in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

5. The instructions given to Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, who is the first in charge of implementing the new security plan, provide that he try to release all foreign hostages held in Lebanon or some of them if it is impossible to free all of them. There are now 26 foreign hostages of 9 nationalities in Lebanon, including Terry Waite, the Anglican envoy, 8 American hostages, and 5 French hostages. On this basis, an understanding was reached between Damascus and Tehran to hold urgent consultations to discuss the entry into the southern suburb and the hostages. Thus, two prominent Iranian officials arrived suddenly in Damascus on Monday, 23 February. Those two officials were Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Revolutionary Guard Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust. It is known that Rafiqdust is one of the senior officials in Tehran in charge of the hostages held in Lebanon. Rafiqdust played a major role in the various negotiations with the French, the Americans, and other sides vis-a-vis the hostages held in Lebanon.

Informed Arab sources told *Al-Qabas* that the Syrian officials want to reach an agreement with the Iranian officials that would allow the Syrian forces to enter the southern suburb and lead to the release of a number of foreign hostages. The sources said Velayati's and Rafiqdust's talks in Damascus would be decisive and important in this connection. The sources added that their talks would also be very difficult because the Iranians would not ease their stand without a price on the issues of the hostgaes and the Syrian entry into the southern suburb.

A prominent Western source disclosed to *Al-Qabas* that if the Syrians succeed in releasing Terry Waite and some American and French hostages this would pave the way for restoring diplomatic relations between Damascus and London and for the return of the U.S. ambassador to the Syrian capital. The source added that if Syrian officials succeed in freeing some foreign hostages this would prompt Western countries to give bigger and clearer support to the new Syrian role in Lebanon. The source noted that during their meeting in Brussels on Monday the EC foreign ministers avoided issuing any statement against the Syrian forces' entry into West Beirut.

Within this framework, a Western country directly involved in the issue of the hostages held in Lebanon received information from Beirut yesterday that a number of the foreign hostages were moved to the Iranian Embassy in West Beirut, and others were moved to southern Lebanon directly before the Syrian forces' entry into the Lebanese capital.

Syria's Kan'an Interviewed on Lebanese Situation

NC261830 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] In an interview to be published in the 27 February edition of the [French-language] periodical *Magazine*, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon] stressed that the Syrian forces have spread out through all of the main streets of West Beirut to watch over the city and reassure the citizens. He added that the rule of the militias has ended in West Beirut, opening the way to political activity.

Kan'an denied that there is a connection between the Syrian Army's entry into West Beirut and the Lebanese-Syrian negotiations. The entry was intended to end the tragedy. As for the negotiations, they seek to define a national plan agreed upon by all Lebanese parties.

Kan'an reaffirmed that he has no information on the hostages. However, he said, the security of the embassies is now his responsibility.

Answering a question about the fate of the eastern [Christian] areas following the Syrian deployment in West Beirut, Kan'an said: This is up to the legitimate authority. We hope it will control the situation in these areas, to help the country extricate itself from the crisis.

Kan'an said the issue of the Khaldah and Al-Awza'i seaports has been settled.

On relations with Iran and Hizballah, Kan'an said: The members of Hizballah are Lebanese. We ask permission of no one before we act. He explained that the Al-Bastah operation [in which some 23 Hizballah members were killed] was the result of noncompliance with the time limit set for the deployment of the Syrian forces. Moreover, the gunmen opened fire on the Syrian forces. He continued: This prompted our forces to return the fire, and casualties occurred. Hizballah does not oppose our mission, and we do not seek revenge in our actions.

Kan'an went on: In 1976, Syria alone defended Lebanon's unity. The other armies that came later had no success. If Lebanon is described as quicksand, it is only quicksand for enemies, not for those who are of the same people. We will defeat any plot that threatens us.

Asked whether the Syrian forces will enter the southern suburbs, Kan'an said: No decision to do so has been made. We do not enter areas where there are no disputes. For example, we have no presence in the western Al-Biqa' because the area is quiet, except for Mashgharan, which we entered following recent incidents [between Hizballah and Syrian Social Nationalist Party members].

Kan'an said the only solution to Lebanon's problems lies in an agreement among the Lebanese on a national charter that gives them equal rights and duties. They could then ask us to leave and we would do so with pleasure, he concluded.

'Final Warning' on Kidnap Victims

NC262134 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, issued a final warning tonight to the gunmen in West Beirut, saying that if they do not release all people who have been kidnapped, the Syrian forces will take action to release the kidnap victims and will hunt down the kidnappers as outlaws and criminals.

In another statement, Kan'an warned anyone who stole private or public property to return it; otherwise, punishment will be harsh and severe.

Khalaf on Release of 4 Hostages in 'Few Days'

LD261437 Kuwait KUNA in English 1430 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tunis, Feb 26 (KUNA) -- Central Committee member and second man in command of Fatah mainstream commando organisation Salam Khalaf said here today that four American hostages held in Lebanon would be freed within the coming few days.

Khalaf, better known as Abu Iyad, told KUNA today that the four abducted lecturers of Beirut University College, three Americans and an Indian holder of a green card, would be delivered shortly to the U.S. side by Syrian forces in Lebanon.

The Palestinian official assured that the four hostages are neither held by the Islamic Jihad underground organisation nor by Hizballah (Party of God).

Last January 24th, gunmen dressed up as policemen entered the campus of Beirut University College and drove away the four teachers, Americans Robert Polhill, Alan Steen and Jesse Turner and the Indian Lithilmeshwar Singh. Later the shadowy Islamic Jihad Organisation for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the abduction.

Abu Iyad said the four hostages are held by the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal Movement or sides close to it and stated that they would be turned over through the Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon.

The Palestinian official denied that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is linked with the upcoming release of the said American hostages.

On the PLO'S role in helping secure the release of hostages being held in Lebanon, Abu Iyad said the organisation is against abduction of civilians and acts of terrorism, but believes in operations inside the occupied Arab lands.

He pointed out that the PLO has no leverage on abductors 'but we have friendships with these sides and relations. We are exerting every effort to set free these hostages'.

However, the official indicated that captors believe the presence of hostages in their hands is protection against any possible American or external strike 'and hence would not release their hostages in the immediate future', Abu Iyad cautioned.

He said he meant by this hostages who had remained for long in captivity. 'As for the four hostage lecturers of Beirut University College, they will be released in the coming few days' Abu Iyad announced, adding that they would be turned over to the Americans through the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

'They (the hostages) are not held by Hizballah or the Islamic Jihad Organisation but rather by Amal or some parties close to them' he reiterated.

5 U.S. Citizens 'Escorted' to East Beirut

NC270920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0903 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] According to a security source, five U.S. citizens were escorted to the eastern area [of Beirut] at 1000 this morning in implementation of the U.S. Government's orders to its nationals to leave Lebanon.

UK Ambassador on Syrian Deployment, Hostages

NC261225 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] John Gray, the British ambassador in Lebanon, has announced that he met with Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general, to discuss the Syrian military entry into West Beirut. Gray remarked that he and Al-Turk also reviewed recent Lebanese developments, particularly the situation in West Beirut and security arrangements pertaining to the British Embassy in the western part of the capital. Asked whether the return of the Syrian Army to West Beirut will help to reveal the whereabouts of Terry Waite, he said: We hope that we will obtain some information on Mr Waite in the next few days. I imagine the Syrians are as worried as any of us and want to see the hostages released.

Asked if the British Embassy will be moved back to West Beirut in response to Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an's invitation, he replied: I am seeking a guarantee from the Lebanese authorities of my personal security and that of the embassy in West Beirut. We still maintain an embassy office there. Regarding his country's position on the Syrian Army's return, he said: This question should be put to the Lebanese Government. However, we have said in London that we have taken notice of the deployment, and we believe that a solution to the Lebanese crisis must be reached through an agreement among the warring parties.

Developments in Hizballah-Syrian Relations

Hizballah Protests 'Massacre'

NC262137 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] According to information received from Al-Biqa', groups of Hizballah members held a mass demonstration in Ba'labakk this evening in protest of the massacre committed in Al-Bastah on Tuesday. The demonstrators condemned the killing of 23 Hizballah members in Al-Bastah.

Syrians Raiding Hizballah Homes

NC271007 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] According to Hizballah sources, the Syrian occupation forces have been conducting storming operations in Al-Bastah since this morning. The homes of the families of the victims who fell during the Al-Bastah incident on 24 February are the main targets of the operations.

Further Reportage on Military Developments

Army Continues To Deploy

NC261200 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Units of the Lebanese Army's 1st and 6th Brigades have continued to deploy along the contact lines. In West Beirut, particularly in Al-Hamra', Burj al-Murr, and Al-Rawshah, all posters which had previously been put up by political parties and armed organizations, especially those of Amal and the PSP, have been removed. They have been replaced by portraits of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Damascus on Beirut Developments

JN262236 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Beirut — The Syrian Arab forces continued today to deploy patrols in the streets of West Beirut after they set up positions in many areas in coordination with the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces in accordance with the security plan.

These forces entered a number of offices and buildings in some parts of West Beirut to make sure that they were closed and that there were no gunmen there. Members of the internal security forces are expected to continue taking positions after they complete their deployment in eight fixed positions alongside the Syrian Arab forces so that the number of positions in western part of the capital will total 23.

The directorate general of the internal security forces issued a statement today calling on merchants and owners of residential buildings in Beirut who had set up barricades in front of their stores and buildings to remove them within 24 hours.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has expressed appreciation for fraternal Syria's and President al-Asad's quick positive response to the appeal by Lebanese political and popular sectors to save Lebanon from its ordeal.

In a statement he made after chairing an extraordinary meeting of the heads and rapporteurs of parliamentary committees, he said: President al-Asad not only came to rescue the western part of the capital from what it was suffering from, but to rescue all of Lebanon and to pave the way for a political solution and national reconciliation.

Al-Husayni also stressed the need to benefit from the initiative launched by frateranl Syria when it put all its capabilities at the service of Lebanon to extricate it from its ordeal. He said: All acts that prevent benefiting from this historic opportunity and from fraternal Syria's backing are targeted at Lebanon and all the Lebanese. The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies speaker also expressed gratitude for President Hafiz al-Asad's positive response and for his permanent readiness to give a hand. He also expressed gratitude to the Syrian Arab forces which support the legitimate Lebanese forces to bring matters under control. Al-Husayni added: The restoration of normal life in West Beirut and enabling the regular legitimate forces to play their role is the prelude to a genuine national reconciliation that leads to reviving the state, which is the only side capable of rescuing everyone.

Responding to Yasir 'Arafat's recent statement, Al-Husayni stressed that whoever pays attention to the statements made by 'Arafat prior to the saving of the western sector of the capital and reads the statement he made after the agreement was reached [on West Beirut] will realize how much he was involved in the fighting that took place. [passage omitted]

Airport, Roads Declared Safe

NC270744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] A Syrian military source has just declared that Beirut International Airport and all roads leading to it are now safe for all citizens, without exception.

PSP Denies Withdrawal From Security Committee

NC270917 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] A Security Committee source has denied that the PSP has suspended its membership in the Central Security Committee.

Amal Fires on Supply Convoy Approaching Shatila

NC271038 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] One Palestinian has been killed and two others wounded in intermittent shelling in Burj al-Barajinah. The PNSF accused the Amal Movement of firing at a supply convoy on its way into Shatila camp. The convoy has so far not been able to enter the camp.

Franjiyah Praises Syrian Miltary Deployment

JN251449 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Beirut — Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah has praised His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's positive response to the appeal made to rescue West Beirut from destruction and internecine fighting. In his weekly news conference, noted by Lebanese papers today, Franjiyah said: Hafiz al-Asad, the champion of Arab dignity, positively responded to the appeal made by Lebanese officials after reaching the conclusion that the abnormal situation will not end without firm Syrian interference. Franjiyah thanked President Hafiz al-Asad for this pan-Arab, brotherly initiative and stressed that as he rescued Lebanon in 1976, he will now rescue Lebanon and restore normal life forever.

Lebanese Prime Minister Karami stressed the deploymnet of the Syrian forces is legitimate. He added President al-Asad responded to the call of all Lebanese — people and government — to save Beirut from inevitable destruction, to achieve tranquillity, to remove all armed appearances, and to terminate anarchy, chaos, and division in the Lebanese arena. He said the situation is gradually returning to normal, thus, the people who welcomed this step have been reassured.

Lebanese Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi praised leader Al-Asad's response to the call of the Lebanese in West Beirut to save them from the sufferings they faced in past days. Dr al-Rasi affirmed the security plan is progressing quickly to achieve its objectives.

Paper Says Ja'ja' Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC261443 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Lebanese paper *Al-Safir* has revealed that Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Phalangists' Lebanese Forces, was the target of an assassination attempt. It says that a number of his bodyguards were injured, though Ja'ja' himself was not, when his motorcade was fired on in the coastal area of Jubayl, at the mid-point on the Beirut-Tripoli highway.

Mufti Khalid Returns From Moscow Peace Parley

NC261456 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic of Lebanon, returned to Beirut from Moscow via Larnaca at 1400 today. Mufti Khalid spent about 2 weeks in the Soviet Union, where he attended the peace conference for a nonnuclear world. Upon his return, his eminence went straight to his house in 'Aramun without making any statements.

Mufti Khalid will chair an extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Grouping in Dar al-Fatwa on Saturday.

SSNP Official Shot Dead in Al-Nabatiyah

NC251424 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, dentist Marwan Qansuh, who was shot this morning while passing through Al-Duwayr in the Al-Nabatiyah area, died of his wounds in the 'Ala' al-Din Hospital in Sidon this afternoon.

It has been reported that Marwan Qansuh was an official of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party in southern Lebanon.

Editorials, Commentary View Beirut Situation

Lebanese Press Cited

JN261633 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1216 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Beirut — The Lebanese papers continued today to highlight the implementation of the security plan, the continuous successes, and the consolidation of security that prevailed in all West Beirut. In its editorial today, the Lebanese paper *Al-Sha'b* attributes the emergence of quick positive results to the fact that the Syrian Arab forces are not invading or alien forces, but emerge from the Arab land to serve pan-Arabism and the fate of Arab people. It says: Steadfast Beirut is a quagmire for the Americans and their Zionist allies, but it is a calm, fresh lake for Arab Syria and its valiant army.

The paper adds: All Lebanon is indepted to President Hafiz al-Asad's stand and blesses the hand that saved the capital from its gladiators. President Hafiz al-Asad's response to the call of innocents is the most sublime definition of Arab brotherhood in the battle of the one fate.

The paper *Al-Sharq* describes what happened in Beirut as a miracle, saying: While receiving this new miracle by Damascus, we cannot help but thank President Hafiz al-Asad and his valiant Arab army.

The newspaper *Al-Safir* says: A completely new stage began in Beirut several days ago. The genuine nationalists in Lebanon, who number as many in East Beirut as they do in West Beirut, must adhere to this stage and develop it every day if they really want their country to survive.

The newspaper *Al-Nahar* says: The new security plan is being implemented seriously, firmly, and quickly because the situation in West Beirut requires drastic change to the extent of taking some sides by surprise. It is noticeable arms and gunmen have disappeared as if the districts of the western part had not been in a furnace of fire a few days ago that could have eliminated everything.

The Syrian forces continue to entrench security and tranquillity in the western part of the Lebanese capital without any new obstacles, disappointing those harmed by the implementation of the security plan and those wagering on the continuation of disorder in nationalist Beirut to peddle their suspect schemes.

For the first time in 2 weeks, schoolchildren were seen on Beirut streets carrying their books and heading for their schools after they were reopened when life returned to normal.

Lebanese sources were unanimous in describing the deployment of Lebanese Army units on the contact lines from the port to the museum crossing in the first stage [of the security plan] as an important new step within the framework of the security plan.

The diplomatic missions that left their offices due to lack of security were officially called to return to work as usual in West Beirut after the Syrian Arab forces, in coordination with the legitimate Lebanese forces, imposed security and tranquillity in this part of the capital.

Beirut airport and the roads leading to it have come under the responsibility of the legitimate security forces and have become safe for all citizens without exception or discrimination, thus foiling the attempt by some to close Beirut International Airport and isolate the capital from the world.

The Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon appealed to the owners of apartments and offices occupied by gunmen of various affiliations to go to the operations room to get their homes back after they were evacuated.

The citizens' confidence in the seriousness of the security plan is increasing every day, and this positively effected the Lebanese pound, which quickly began to regain some of its value against the U.S. dollar in the Lebanese stock market.

The stable security atmosphere and the absence of gunmen have given room to talk about the imminent activation of political contacts to reach a national accord to extricate Lebanon forever from the ordeal, whose continuation is desired by the enemies of Lebanon and Arabs at the expense of Lebanon's existence and the lives of the Lebanese.

Lebanese sources expected political contacts to coincide with the quick and successful implementation of the security plan to solve the problems hampering a Lebanese consensus on the establishment of a unified Arab Lebanon that meets the aspirations of all its sons without exception.

'Mission of Salvation' Praised

JN261434 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, all those who wagered Lebanon would continue to commit slow suicide and persist in torturing itself have lost wagers about the continuation of the possible dangers that frightened the Lebanese and made them lose the ability to rally around each other and rise to control their threatened destiny throughout the past difficult years. With the loss of these wagers the machine of death and destruction now comes to a halt in Beirut; the game of death is removed from the Lebanese streets and fears recede; and the Lebanese in West Beirut in particular have awakened on a day when there is room only for security and for the assurance to which the brothers in Lebanon have long aspired. That was precisely the objective of Syria's historic decision to enter Beirut. It was for this purpose Syria was willing in the past and is willing now to make sacrifices. That is what Syria is seeking to impose, with all its love for all the Lebanese, and with all the determination required by the situation in Beirut following its bloody ordeal. The Syrian Arab soldiers arrived in Beirut to save the Lebanese brothers from the nightmare of fear that gripped them and made them almost unconscious, and to assist them in putting their house in order in a climate of peace and security on the basis of Lebanese interests, which are now above all other interests.

Perhaps all that has so far been said and done by the Lebanese, on both the official and popular levels, proves the fact that the mission of salvation the Syrian Arab soldiers have undertaken in Beirut is confirmation of the depth of the historic ties between Beirut and Damascus. It is also an action for which Syria and its leader Al-Asad will always be remembered in history, an action carried out during the most critical and serious stage faced by Lebanon.

The fraternal Lebanese people and their official, party, and popular organizations have replied to all the tendentious people who attempted to distort the lofty aims of our participation in saving the Lebanese people from their suffering, and particularly to the 'Arafatist capitulationists who want more fratricide, feuding, and death for the Arab people of Lebanon and for the Palestinian Arab people in Lebanon in the hope they will join them under the banner besmirched with the shame of submission to Camp David.

The absolute welcome accorded to the historic decision made by the leader Al-Asad to support the Lebanese people and to provide Beirut with peace and security is growing daily in Arab and world circles, and is opposed only by the enemies of Lebanon and the plotting 'Arafatists who have lost the opportunity to burn Lebanon and the Lebanese and Palestinians in Lebanon and who find themselves the only side threatened by the fire. The march toward peace and security is irrevocable and proceeds unabated until Lebanon fully awakens and arises from the ruins of the past bitter days to build with its own free will the Arab future to which it aspires, without fear or coercion.

Continuing Reportage on Peres Visit to Egypt

Peres: ‘New Ideas’ Discussed

TA261527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim‘on Peres conferred with President Mubarak in Cairo this afternoon. Another meeting appears to be scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Our correspondent in Cairo, ‘Oded Ben-‘Ami, reports Mr Peres said that in his meeting with the Egyptian president today, new ideas to promote the peace process were raised and that they should now be examined with the other parties. Israel and Egypt agree Jordan, other countries, and the Palestinians will have to confer with Israel to find a solution. The participation of Palestinian delegates in the talks requires the consent of all the parties concerned.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr ‘Ismat ‘Abd al-Majid said the atmosphere during the talks with Mr Peres was warm and friendly. He emphasized the crisis in Israel over the international conference is a domestic affair and expressed the hope it will be resolved soon.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 26 February reports on the Peres-Mubarak meeting, in a similar report, adds:— “Peres added he received no namelist of possible Palestinian representatives in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.”]

Peres on Palestinian Agreement

TA261854 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1805 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Shim‘on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, will meet again tomorrow morning with President Husni Mubarak. In his talks today Mr Peres achieved an Israeli-Egyptian agreement stating the Palestinian representation in peace negotiations must be approved by all the parties concerned. Our political correspondent Yig‘al Goren, who is accompanying the foreign minister, notes members of Mr Peres’ entourage regard this as an agreement between Egypt, Jordan, and Israel to the effect that the PLO must not be forced on Israel. Peres and Mubarak met today for 2 hours. During their talks Peres voiced his desire for additional coordination with Jordan. Peres says the possiblity should not be ruled out that an agreement will be reached soon on the names of Palestinian figures to be candidates for the Palestinian representation in peace negotiations.

Further on Joint List

TA270620 Tel Aviv HA‘ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Feb 87 pp 1, 2

[“Exclusive” report from Egypt by ‘Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Cairo — Egypt and Israel will begin preparatory talks with the participation of other parties to formulate a mutually acceptable list of Palestinians who would take part in the international conference and in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which would conduct direct negotiations with Israel after the opening of such a conference — Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim‘on Peres told the *Ha‘aretz* correspondent yesterday at the end of his first meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Peres and Mubarak will hold a second meeting this morning in yet another bid to bridge the gaps on the question of the Palestinian representation. Sources in the foreign minister’s entourage said the formula agreed upon yesterday regarding the composition of a Palestinian delegation acceptable to all parties does not mention the PLO out of an understanding Israel does not agree to include this organization in the negotiations. The *Ha‘aretz* correspondent points out that to date Egypt has been reiterating the fact the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people and no negotiations are possible with Israel that do not include the PLO.

Sources in the Israeli entourage pointed out the fact that Mubarak’s political adviser, Usamah al-Baz, is not part of the Egyptian delegation and that Mustafa Khalil was included in his sted. This was explained by Al-Baz’s failure to make good on his promise to obtain the PLO’s consent to accept the conditions for its participation in the negotiations.

Egypt has agreed to mediate between Israel and Jordan as well as between Jordan and the PLO in a bid to find mutually acceptable Palestinian representatives as soon as possible. Peres told *Ha‘aretz* he does not rule out the possibility a list of names may be submitted to the sides as a result of the talks he has been holding in Cairo. According to him, such a list has not yet been submitted to President Mubarak and in their meeting yesterday the Egyptian president voiced surprise over reports such a list had already been submitted to him.

Replying to a question as to whether the results of his talks in Cairo might exacerbate the internal crisis in Israel, Peres said: “Two people are needed to make an agreement, whereas only one is needed to break it — and I am not proposing to break up the coalition.” He added he had told President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Ismat ‘Abd al-Majid he had not come to Egypt to recruit them for the internal argument in Israel but rather to promote peace.

Peres emphasized there is full agreement with Egypt and Jordan regarding the demand the international conference should not have the power to impose solutions on the sides.

He noted Egypt is not adopting independent positions on the issue of Palestinian representation or the procedures of the conference but is rather communicating between Israel and Jordan and between Jordan and the PLO. According to him, he was impressed by the close relations between Egypt and Jordan and felt President Mubarak wants to bridge the gap between the sides rather than pressure them. Mubarak told Peres in their talks Egypt feels it can talk to all the incumbent parties: the Arabs, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the PLO, and promote the peace process.

Peres noted that in his talks he had been asked whether Israel would be prepared to contemplate a compromise solution of the Tabah dispute without having to resort to arbitration and he had replied affirmatively.

The meeting with President Mubarak lasted 2 and 1/2 hours, most of it held privately. Peres said he had conveyed to his hosts his astonishment over the great progress Egypt has made in developing its agriculture.

Peres will return to Israel at noon and will brief the cabinet about his trip and its results on Sunday.

It was reported last night that in a gesture toward his guest President Mubarak had ordered direct dialing between Egypt and Israel be instituted as of today.

Palestinian Contacts Reported

TA270843 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Feb 87 pp 1, 6

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Last night, after his meeting with Mubarak in Cairo, Peres told *Yedi'ot Aharonot*: "I have a very explicit mandate to handle the issue of the international conference, and this mandate cannot be revoked."

Regarding the fury in the Likud circles over his departure for Egypt to discuss the international conference, the foreign minister said: "The work for an international conference is a long-term project. I plan to pursue the same line. If anyone wants to bring about a negative decision, he may do so, but will have to suffer all the attendant consequences. However, any decision on the matter should only be made after everything has been clarified."

He said he has no intention of initiating the dissolution of the unity government. "It takes two to agree on something; but it only takes one to break something. I do not favor the dissolution of the government."

As to whether during his stay in Cairo contacts will be held with Jordan as well, Peres said: "I will not answer this. I promised President Mubarak to honor discretion."

According to Peres, a framework for the inclusion of Palestinians in the talks has in fact been reached. It was agreed that the issue of representation will be agreed upon by the two sides. "The problem now is more the names of the delegates than the principles according to which they will be selected. No Palestinian names have yet been raised," Peres said.

Our correspondent has learned that names of Palestinian representatives on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will soon be raised, and that the final list of members on the delegation will be made up of those names. Agreement on the identity of those people will be coordinated with Jordan and Egypt and will be acceptable to Israel. The idea is these people should not be avowed PLO members, although their election would be made known to the PLO.

Our correspondent has learned furthermore that recently members of Peres' staff have held contacts with Palestinians from the territories on the international conference. The Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv is maintaining similar contacts. [passage omitted]

Peres Terms Talks 'The Best'

TA270830 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Feb 87 p 2

[Report by correspondent in Cairo Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Peres is returning home after successful talks with President Husni Mubarak, which he believes were the best he has held in Egypt. The international conference is still looming on the horizon, but the Peres visit may have promoted the chance such a conference would be convoked in the future. It may also have accelerated the danger to the continued existence of the national unity government.

Peres is returning with a number of understandings, the central one being that the Palestinian representatives can only be selected following the consent of all the parties involved. In other words, Israel would have the right to oppose representatives who are self-confessed and well-known PLO figures. Another agreement is that the international conference would only be the framework for direct negotiations.

Peres was encouraged regarding the chances for continuing the process of maintaining open and indirect contacts with Mubarak and Husayn. What about Prime Minister Shamir's opinion? In his meeting with Israeli reporters yesterday, Peres tried to shirk the political issue, repeating he would not initiate the dissolution of the government but that he intends to continue to initiate moves that would promote peace.

The visit to Cairo has strengthened Peres' belief that it is necessary to pursue the process because there is no other choice. The decision-making function and responsibility has shifted from the political sphere to the political sphere. [sentence as published] Peres sounds like one trying to defuse the tension on the Israeli political scene. Will Shamir, Levi, and Sharon accept a ceasefire?

Mubarak on Shamir Stance

TA270907 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Feb 87 p 1

[Report by the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Text] President Mubarak refused to make a trip to the United States this week so as not to run into Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Moreover, Mubarak is convinced "it is inconceivable Shamir could contribute anything to peace." This was written yesterday by Muhammad Ahmad, who is closely associated with the Egyptian presidency, in yesterday's issue of the Cairo weekly *Al-Musawwar*.

Joint Communique Issued

TA271041 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1031 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Telephone report from Cairo by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — live]

[Text] Good afternoon to you from Cairo. We are broadcasting from the Egyptian capital's international airport. Approximately an hour ago, a special news conference held by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his host here in Egypt, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid was held. The two read a joint communique acceptable to both sides, noting they believe it is necessary to take the appropriate steps to promote the peace process and — and this is the interesting point — reach an agreement on the convocation of an international peace conference in 1987 that would lead to direct negotiations between all the interested parties, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The conference, says the joint communique, will allow for direct negotiations in a bid to resolve the Israeli-Arab conflict, including a resolution to the problem of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The two sides agreed to pursue the necessary preparations to expand the dialogue to include all the parties involved in the Middle East conflict.

The communique was read to reporters at the Almazah military airfield in Arabic, Hebrew, and English. This is a very interesting announcement, with the first declaration by two officials, from Israel and Egypt, who came out with an official declaration agreeing to an international peace conference. Let us add that in a news conference held after the declaration, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed himself very moderately on the PLO, saying the Palestinian representation in the negotiations are a matter the Palestinians themselves should settle, and noted specifically that the Palestinian representation, or the Palestinian representatives, must be acceptable to all the sides.

Peres' aircraft, I believe, should land at Tel Aviv in a few minutes, and I believe this communique will create ripples in the Israeli political scene: Peres did not give up his views and declared even in Cairo — and is bound to repeat in Jerusalem, too — agreement to an international conference.

Communique Read Upon Return

TA271105 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1047 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Joint Israeli-Egyptian communique issued on visit by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, to Egypt; read at Ben-Gurion Airport by Peres "spokesman" Uri Savir immediately upon Peres' return from Cairo — live]

[Text] Good afternoon. Following is the joint communique issued a short while ago in Cairo:

The visit by Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo created an opportunity for the two countries to continue their dialogue on their firm and mutual commitment to increase efforts in the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, as well as in their mutual desire to continue to improve their bilateral relations.

The deliberations held in the course of the visit were conducted in the spirit of the September 1986 Alexandria summit. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the joint communique issued to the media, which concluded their meeting at that time. The two sides reiterated the commitment they pronounced in Alexandria that action would be taken to promote the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They believe it is necessary to take the steps that would promote the peace process, reach an agreement on the convocation in 1987 of an international conference that would lead to direct negotiations between all the interested parties and which will be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The conference will allow for direct negotiations in a bid to resolve all the aspects of the Israeli-Arab conflict as well as the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In their efforts to overcome the remaining obstacles, the two sides agreed to continue with the necessary preparations and expand the dialogue to include all interested parties.

Comparison of Communique

Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1430 GMT on 27 February transmits the text of the joint communique issued on the occasion of the visit by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, to Egypt. The MENA version has been compared to the preceding Jerusalem Domestic Hebrew Domestic version and found to be identical.

Peres Airport Statement

TA271120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1049 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Statement by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his arrival from Egypt — live]

[Text] We have just completed our visit to Cairo. I met with President Mubarak 2 hours ago. We were accorded a most sympathetic welcome, and found the fabric of relations between Egypt and Israel to be calm, good, and evincing efforts to demonstrate mutual considerations. In fact, immediately upon my meeting with President Mubarak, he began with a gesture in the form of the establishment of the direct automatic telephone links between Israel and Egypt. I was personally deeply impressed with the fact that since the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt, it has devoted a substantial part of its resources and attention to the development of the country: electricity, roads, bridges, agriculture, and industry. This, perhaps, is the strongest impression I carry back with me from this visit.

We held lengthy and very friendly talks with the Egyptian leaders — as I said, with the president, the prime minister, and other ministers. The joint communique, which was not planned originally, includes three points which I believe are interesting from Israel's viewpoint: The first is the heretofore unwritten conviction, which is now affirmed in writing, that peace can only be attained through direct negotiations, or as President Mubarak put it, negotiations on peace cannot be conducted through carrier pigeons. The international conference, or opening, is intended to make it possible for Jordan to enter the negotiations. The second interesting point is insofar as the Palestinian representation is concerned, the phrasing is: representatives that are acceptable to the sides. The third interesting point is both countries, Egypt and Israel, have announced in writing they want to cooperate on preparations necessary to promote the peace process.

Today I have relieved myself of one fear, which is that the peace process would end, and at the same time I have one more hope; namely, that perhaps, after all, we will reach direct negotiations.

Holds News Conference

TA271155 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1052 GMT 27 Feb 87

[News conference by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return from talks in Egypt — live]

[Text] [Razi Barqay] Mr Peres, shalom to you.

[Peres] Shalom to you.

[Barqay] According to what you said and according to the communique read out by your spokesman, you have declared 1987 to be not only a year of peace but also the year of the convention of an international conference. Two days ago on this very same spot, Yitzhaq Shamir said you have no authority to decide on an international conference. Do you intend to bring this issue to a head in the cabinet session on Sunday?

[Peres] I also have no authority to reject an international conference. I have the authority to conduct negotiations over an international conference. It was not only decided to convene an international conference, but also to reach direct negotiations in 1987. I am sorry the Voice of Israel does not understand the difference between conducting negotiations in the framework of an international conference — something which I opposed in the past and continue to oppose at present — and opening direct negotiations by means of an international conference; these are two different things altogether.

[Barqay] Sir, will you ask the Israeli Cabinet to approve this communique in its weekly session on Sunday?

[Peres] That is not necessary.

[Barqay] That is, will you suffice with the communique as it is, without bringing it to the cabinet for deliberations?

[Peres] This communique is a step in the process of advancing toward peace.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Peres, you announce one thing and the prime minister announces something else altogether. This is nothing new, but the question is how long can you go on sitting in such a government when each side is pulling in different directions and there is no consensus? Do elections also lie in store for us in 1987?

[Peres] My goal is to bring about peace between Israel and its neighbors rather than deal with wars among the Jews.

[Correspondent] Do you plan to brief the prime minister about your talks, the joint communique, and the agreements before the cabinet session?

[Peres] I plan to brief the prime minister and the cabinet about the talks I held.

[Correspondent] Even before the cabinet session?

[Peres] We have not yet set a time.

[Correspondent] Mr Peres, referring to the Palestinian representation: Did you agree on a mutually acceptable representation?

[Peres] No, we only reached agreement on the principle that the Palestinian delegation must be acceptable to all sides; namely, also to Israel.

[Barqay] Were names of Palestinians mentioned?

[Peres] The answer is no.

[Barqay] That is, there is actually no agreement about authentic Palestinians who would accompany these negotiations.

[Peres] There is an agreement, but there are no names yet.

[Correspondent] What must yet happen for such a conference to convene this year?

[Peres] Look, we insist on several points. First of all, the procedures and authority of the conference must be concluded to the effect that such a conference cannot impose a solution, revoke an agreement, or interfere in the negotiations. There is also the problem of which elements outside the Middle East will take part and under what conditions. Incidentally, as you know, we posed two conditions for the Soviet Union: First, the resumption of diplomatic relations; second, a change in the attitude of the Soviet Union toward the Jews. Also, there is as yet no list of names of the members of the Palestinian delegation. I am not surprised the peace process has been a long and protracted one. Of course, stopping the peace process can be a very brief process. To cut and stop takes only 1 to 2 minutes, whereas to continue and develop calls for time, initiative, ingenuity, and so forth.

[Correspondent] Mr Peres, was your meeting today with President Mubarak in the capacity of vice prime minister and foreign minister different from the meeting you held with him when you were prime minister?

[Peres] The difference is not in the job but in the conditions. In my previous visit the issue of Tabah hovered over all our talks. This time the issue of Tabah was not on the agenda. There has been a rise in the volume of tourism and trade, the direct telephone dialing, and wherever I went there was an atmosphere of goodwill.

[Correspondent] Was the attitude toward you not different, perhaps in view of the fact that you went there in your capacity as foreign minister without the approval of the prime minister?

[Peres] Look, there are no personal jobs. There is a government made up of two parties. We are not the clerks of one party working for the other. People are trying to depict a situation that does not exist. There are various jobs, jobs are exchanged, but the policy remains one. To the best of my knowledge, the rotation applied to the jobs and not to the policy. The process I am talking about did not start yesterday morning or on the eve of Mr Shamir's trip to the United States. This process has been going on for 2 years, with statements in the Knesset in broad daylight, and I do not see any decisions or resolutions that call for a change in policy.

[Correspondent] And what about your critics within the Labor Party?

[Peres] I do not know them. These are all anonymous reports. Let these people step forward and criticize. I have not encountered any criticism in our internal talks in the party.

[Yaron Deqel of IDF Radio] Mr Peres, as far as you know, to what extent does King Husayn agree to the understandings you reached with President Mubarak?

[Peres] I would say some of the points we discussed but we did not agree upon depend on Husayn to a great extent. I assume contacts will be held with Husayn through the United States to examine various other ideas.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, while you were in Cairo reports arrived here from Washington about a possible deterioration in your relations with the U.S. secretary of state...

[Peres, interrupting] Let us be accurate: There were no reports from Washington, but rather one report from one correspondent who creates news. I am in constant contact with Mr Shultz and I have not felt any deterioration. On the contrary, the relationship remains unchanged.

[Correspondent] Would you comment on the Tower report which was publicized during your absence from Israel?

[Peres] No. I have not read it and I will not comment on it until I have read it in full.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, to conclude this brief news conference: You are now coming back from Cairo. In the last few days we have been witnessing very harsh verbal exchanges between the Alignment and the Likud. Our question is: What do you expect will happen in the next few weeks?

[Peres] I am not responsible for the Likud's statements. I understand that Mr Roni Milo is a genius politician who has attained vast achievements for the State of Israel and he is the main discerner of what is and what is not dangerous for Israel. I know when we conducted the negotiations on the Camp David accords some people said they entailed dire dangers for the State of Israel. I think this is a first-rate achievement. I am not going to compete with anybody at demagoguery. I am not looking for an argument. I am looking forward to promote the peace process. On this issue, I am determined and I will not budge from my position.

[Barqay] Will the government survive or are we in for elections?

[Peres] Journalists and politicians discharge different duties. If you ask me to speculate, then my answer is I will not make any speculations.

Shamir Reacts to Peres Visit, Conference Stance

Summit Deviates Guidelines

TA261212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1156 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] A short time ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the international conference deviates from the national unity government's basic guidelines. He made these remarks in an address to the Jewish Agency Board of Trustees in Jerusalem. Here is a report by our correspondent Dick Winter:

[Begin Shamir recording] The question of the international conference is not mentioned or hinted at in the basic guidelines binding on all of us. Therefore, I regard this activity as deviating from the framework of the government's basic guidelines. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1149 GMT in a similar report, adds: "The prime minister said the United States' reservations about an international conference are identical to his. The Americans, Shamir said, do not believe in the success of such a conference, but they are looking into this possibility following pressure by various elements, including Israeli elements."]

Government Could Be Dissolved

TA261241 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1222 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the dispute over the international conference could lead to the dissolution of the government. The prime minister explained a short while ago the foreign minister's activities to promote the international conference are out of step with the government's basic guidelines.

As for the rumors that a list of Palestinian figures will be handed over to the foreign minister in Egypt, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told our correspondent Ilan Ben-Dor any list acceptable to the PLO is unacceptable to Israel.

Shamir Emphatic: No Summit

TA261340 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The prime minister says that regardless of what various elements do, there will not be an international conference. In his opinion, such a conference makes the possibility for direct negotiations more remote. Mr Shamir spoke to our correspondent Dick Winter.

Asked about reports Egypt has approached the PRC about diplomatic relations with Israel, the prime minister replied President Mubarak will not bring us relations with China.

Regarding the deployment of Syrian soldiers in West Beirut, Shamir said the Syrians will never be able to bring stability to Lebanon and Israel must continue to guard its interests on the northern border.

Shamir 'Furious' With Peres

TA270858 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
27 Feb 87 p 6

[Report by Gad Li'or, Bina Barzel, and Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpt] Sources associated with the prime minister have reported Yitzhaq Shamir is "furious" with Shim'on Peres for his conduct over the last few days. According to these circles, Shamir is not ruling out the possibility the cabinet will be dissolved. Immediately upon Peres' return from Egypt, Shamir plans to hold a serious and bitter conversation with him, in which he will demand explanations for the vice prime minister's latest moves.

Shamir is especially piqued with the fact that the vice prime minister left for Egypt on the very same day the prime minister returned to Israel and did not wait for him. "This is a really amazing situation, both from the political angle and from the point of view of courtesy and propriety, which Peres excels in, if he sets his mind to it," the senior source in the Prime Minister's Office added. [passage omitted]

Vows To 'Foil' Peres

TA270900 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
27 Feb 87 p 1, 6

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shlomo Naqdimon on 26 February; place not given]

[Text] "We will foil Peres' attempt to force the idea of the international conference on the cabinet," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told *Yedi'ot Aharonot* last night.

"It is not as though I am pinning for elections, but I am not afraid of early elections. Economically, it is necessary to preserve the incumbent government, but if people try to force a certain position on the cabinet, if they try to push it to the wall and make it accept a position that I oppose, a split will occur.

"I object to an international conference. This is how I feel about it, and anyone who takes a different view may leave the cabinet," Shamir said after his return from the United States 2 days ago. Yesterday, he held consultations and deliberations that focused on the crisis that was caused by Peres' departure for Cairo.

[Naqdimon] In view of the conflicting reports on the U.S. position, could you elucidate precisely what its position on the international conference really is?

[Shamir] The United States favors direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors, but is also looking into other ways of reaching this goal, among them the proposed international conference. I heard the President and the secretary of state express explicit reservations about this. The Americans prefer direct negotiations and are certainly not enthusiastic about the notion of a conference; however, they are examining this idea, too.

[Naqdimon] How did you explain in the United States the differences between yourself and Vice Prime Minister Peres?

[Shamir] I said that in Israel the cabinet is composed of two large parties, which differ on this matter. Yet the Americans were not very interested in this, because they lack enthusiasm for the idea. The President has no desire to introduce the Soviets into this, so the U.S. expression of consent to check the matter is the result of pressure, which unfortunately came from Israel, among others.

[Naqdimon] What do you know about the vice prime minister and foreign minister's talks in Egypt? Has he reported to you?

[Shamir] What do you think, that I should run after him? He should report to me. He has not maintained any contact with me since my departure for the United States.

Likud Reacts to International Summit Proposal

United Against Summit

TA261815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The Likud ministers held a meeting this evening at the prime minister's residence and were briefed by him on his trip to the United States and on the dispute with the Alignment on the question of the international conference. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that there is a consensus among the ministers to oppose the conference.

[Begin recording] [Zissowitz] The Likud ministers adopted a united front this evening and are waiting to see what Shim'on Peres brings back with him from Cairo. The Likud ministerial meeting focused on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's review of his trip to the United States and his talks with Administration leaders. Mr Shamir told his colleagues this evening that hard work is needed to direct the U.S. Administration away from the concept of an international conference and toward the path of direct negotiations, because Israel has been dropping clues during the past 2 years that it would agree to such a conference.

All the ministers who spoke during the meeting supported the line of action proposed by the prime minister: to fight the idea of a conference, to explain to the public the dangers inherent in such a conference, but simultaneously to avoid harming the government's ability to function.

Minister David Levi, incidentally, did not ask to take the floor and did not make any remarks in the ensuing debate on this issue.

As said, the Likud is trying to reduce the intensity of the argument but is not abstaining from leveling criticism. The prime minister attacked Mr Peres for saying that he was going to Egypt before Shamir returned to Israel because the prime minister had, in fact, officially concluded his talks last week. Shamir also noted that Mr Peres had not yet taken the time to update him on the details of his talks in Cairo. The substance of the new ideas that Peres mentioned upon emerging from his meeting with Mubarak is not yet clear to the Likud ministers; however, Minister Moshe Qatzav, after the ministerial meeting, was quick to placate us:

[Qatzav] There was no reason for a formal decision. The foreign minister has no mandate to reach agreements on the subject of an international conference. He has neither a mandate nor approval. [end recording]

Milo Hopes Furor Subsides

TA271214 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Here is the initial Likud reaction [to the joint communique Peres reached with Egypt]: Deputy Minister Roni Milo hopes now that the uproar stirred up over the issue of the international conference will subside and that it will be possible to return to business as usual.

Continuing Reportage on Role in Iran Affair

Official on U.S. Cooperation

TA261652 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Interview with Cabinet Secretary Dr Elyaqim Rubinstein by Ilana Dayan — live]

[Text] [Dayan] Good evening, Mr Rubinstein.

[Rubinstein] Shalom and good evening.

[Dayan] Israel was asked to provide answers to questions presented to it by the Tower Commission. Last week in Washington you informed the commission members, however, that we would not. Why?

[Rubinstein] The Tower Commission's appeal was essentially a technical matter. The appeal to us came late: The commission was appointed in December, while the request to us was made only in February, and there was no time to reply to the detailed questions, which we received only a few days ago. So as far as the Tower Commission is concerned, we informed its members that we would be happy to see their work continue and that we would gladly cooperate with them, just as we cooperate with other Senate, congressional, or special prosecutor committees — through the government-to-government channel. In other words, this appeal was merely a formality.

[Dayan] In your talks in Washington with the other committees, did you reach any sort of agreement on the procedure that this cooperation will follow?

[Rubinstein] We reached an understanding with the Senate and congressional committees that this cooperation would be conducted through a government-to-government channel because this entire affair was a joint affair carried out by the two governments. It is not a matter of an investigation of our acts, but an attempt to help them clarify the facts through that government-to-government channel. We hope to furnish the United States with historical and financial chronologies of these operations in the course of this period, following appropriate preparation here. This was acceptable to them. We are also in touch with the special prosecutor, who deals with the criminal aspects of the affair within the United States and with suspicions that the law was indeed broken, and the Administration...

[Dayan, interrupting] But with your permission, beyond procedure, let us turn to substance: The issue of the international conference has taken up most of the headlines here recently, forcing the Iran affair to take second place. But in the United States, the latter still makes headlines. In your contacts with the Americans, were you able to convey to them Israel's denial of ever having any connection with the contras in this affair? Did they accept this traditional denial?

[Rubinstein] We reiterated this. At the moment the negotiations, or the contacts, are not over this point, which was stated very forcefully by the government spokesman, but over procedural matters. I would like to add that in Israel this issue indeed does not make the top headlines, but in the United States, naturally, it still is a central issue with which the major papers and networks deal daily. In the United States this issue overshadows almost every other issue.

[Dayan] You joined Mr Shamir on most of his tour. Yet this visit was not made any easier by the events that took place in Israel during that time. How did the prime minister react to the news he heard from Israel, such as Shim'on Peres' remark that Mr Shamir was killing peace in his overseas visit?

[Rubinstein] I never heard this myself, and besides I believe that both my official post and commonsense require that I refrain from engaging in such polemics or indulging in providing assessments of internal matters which...

[Dayan, interrupting] But I asked about the prime minister's reaction.

[Rubinstein] The prime minister accepted some of the remarks as part of the political reality that we are living today. The Americans are also well aware of this reality, where on certain issues — which, incidentally, are only a few, and one should not overestimate their number — there are differences of opinion between the major blocs comprising the cabinet.

[Dayan] Did you not hear your U.S. interlocutors make comments such as: We are unable to discern one Israeli position? Did you not hear them complain that they cannot actually determine which voice emanating from Israel is the official one?

[Rubinstein] On the one hand, such things on certain matters pertaining to the peace process which have for some years already (?been united). [sentence as heard] However, it is not as though this is a revelation, as though the Americans woke up one morning to find a new reality. The Americans and other countries realize that in foreign policy and in a coalition partnership there are grounds for differences of opinion, echoes of which can sometimes be heard abroad. I believe that in some European countries there are also national unity governments of one form or another, and there too one can hear different tunes emanating from the Cabinet chambers. I believe this is known to them. The prime minister delivered his message in an unambiguous and clear fashion, realizing — and stating as much — that other things were meanwhile being stated in Israel. They had no need to hear this only from him; they know it very well themselves.

[Dayan] Thank you very much, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein.

[Rubinstein] Thank you.

No Reaction to Tower Report

TA270732 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Feb 87 p 3

[Report by Amnon Levi]

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office refused yesterday to react officially to the Tower report. It was reported from the office that the Israeli Government would be prepared to cooperate with the United States and that if Israel is presented with written questions on the matter, they will be answered.

Unofficially, Jerusalem sources expressed satisfaction yesterday with the fact that the report does not make Israel a central issue and lowers the profile of its involvement.

Defense Ministry Refutes North

TA271213 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Here is a report on additional reaction in Israel to the Tower Commission's report: The Defense Ministry spokesman has announced that Colonel North's statements in an affidavit to the committee to the effect that Minister Rabin had offered to dispatch aid and instructors to the Nicaraguan rebels is totally unfounded. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the spokesman disclosed that during his visit to the United States, the defense minister conferred with Col North at the latter's request. Col North gave a detailed description of the situation in Nicaragua and said that he had suggested that President Reagan authorize the dispatch of instructors from Britain or Israel to the contras, but that he, North, would prefer that those instructors be Israeli. The defense minister rejected the proposal on the spot.

PLO Pilots Fly Combat Missions for Iraq, Libya

TA270537 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Feb 87 p 7

[Report by the defense affairs correspondent]

[Text] Palestinian pilots are believed to have flown missions for the Iraqi Air Force in the war against Iran and for the Libyan Air Force in Chad, the IDF's weekly, *Bamahane* reported. The magazine said there were no reports on how well the Palestinians had done, but they were assumed to be poorly trained and inferior "even to Syrian and Egyptian pilots." They have been trained in North Yemen and Libya, "which are considered third rate," the magazine added.

The PLO's air force, called Force 14, was established in 1969-70 by officers who had quit other Arab air forces, particularly Jordan's. Originally, the pilots were supposed to carry out suicide missions against strategic targets in Israel, *Bamahane* said. Palestinian youths were sent to several Arab states for training, but the PLO leadership decided to prepare an infrastructure for a regular air force instead. The force itself comprises only a few dozen pilots and technicians, primarily in North Yemen. It has transport planes such as the *Fokker 27*, and helicopters, including *Bell 204's* purchased in England, but no fighter aircraft.

Moroccan Agricultural Delegation Due 1 March

TA270518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0507 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Here is a surprising report which has reached our newsdesk: An official Moroccan delegation will arrive in Israel on Sunday. The delegation will include a Moroccan cabinet minister. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports:

An agricultural delegation from Morocco is due in Israel on Sunday. It will be headed by the Moroccan agriculture minister and will include two of his deputies and a personal envoy of King Hassan, who is also a relative of his. The news of this visit is also being published today in the newspaper *Yated Ne'eman* [affiliated with Agudat Yisra'el]. Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin would not confirm or deny the news of the visit to us. We have learned from a reliable source that the delegation will be the guest of Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'oz in his kibbutz, Nahal 'Oz, over next weekend. Next Saturday night there will be a party for the guests in the town of Ofaqim. The Agriculture Ministry was very keen not to publicize the visit because a previous visit the delegation was to have paid to the Agrexco [Agricultural Exporting Company] fair was cancelled at the last minute due to the prior publicity.

Arrangements for the visit of the Moroccan delegation were concluded a few weeks ago during a visit by Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'oz in Morocco.

Further Reports on OAU Ministerial Session

Libyan Occupation of Chad Hit

AB262230 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 26 Feb 87 p 24

[Correspondent Mohamed Fana report for *Fraternite Matin* under the rubric "L'Evenement" and headlined "45th OAU Ministerial Session; Simeon Ake: The Occupation of Chad Is Illegal"]

[Text] The 45th OAU Council of Ministers session continues at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and is expected to end on 28 February. The second day of the meeting [24 February] was the occasion for OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou to present an important and courageous report covering the period from July 1986 to February 1987. Today, we will refer once again to the Chad-Libya conflict which gave rise to a stormy debate during which [Foreign] Minister Simeon Ake condemned Libyan aggression against Chad, and the occupation of northern Chad by Al-Qadhdhafi's forces. In fact, one of the major highlights of the 23 February debate on the agenda of the ordinary session, was the examination of the tragic situation facing the people of Chad, because of the Libyan aggression and occupation of the Aozou Strip and other parts of Chad's erritory of Chad. Libya once again found itself in the minority, as it had violated an OAU principle stipulating that a state cannot request the inclusion on the agenda of an issue concerning another state without the consent of the country concerned. Tripoli created confusion by proposing the inclusion on the agenda of an issue referring to alleged French-American aggression in Chad, whereas it is rather Libya's own aggression against that country that is the issue.

The Libyan maneuver, therefore, gave rise to a battle of words, a fiery contest in eloquence between representatives of the two countries directly concerned by the conflict. Chad was opposed to the inclusion of Libya's proposal in the agenda. It was at the end of this battle of words with the Libyan delegate that Simeon Ake succeeded in preventing the inclusion of the proposal on the agenda.

Nigeria, for its part, asked the chairman of the session whether it was in fact possible for one state to substitute itself for another. The chairman agreed that this was not possible and that, consequently, the Libyan proposal could not be included in the agenda. Zaire and Egypt supported the Ivorian stand on Chad, so as the debate progressed, Libya's isolation became more apparent.

On the Chadian issue, Simeon Ake intervened once more to condemn vigorously, in clear terms, Libya's attitude — interference in Chadian affairs — whose military forces and mercenaries continue to violate the territorial integrity of a sovereign state with impunity.

Referring to President Houphouet-Boigny's important interview with AFP, Minister Ake firmly condemned the annexation of the Aozou Strip, an integral part of Chad. Minister Ake went on to give a history lesson to the Libyan delegate by emphasizing that this occupation of northern Chad (Aozou) happened 13 years after Chad's independence, and 10 years after the creation of the OAU of which Libya was one of the founding members, but which is now the gravedigger of African unity. In addition, Minister Simeon Ake justified the French Government's support for President Hissein Habre's legitimate government, which is recognized by all international bodies: the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference, and so on.

On behalf of President Houphouet-Boigny, the Ivorian foreign minister underlined that the Ivory Coast would like Al-Qadhdhafi's friends to tell him that he would render a great service to the OAU, and, thereby, to the whole of Africa, by withdrawing voluntarily and peacefully from the territory of a sovereign nation that is a full member of the OAU.

Finally, Minister Simeon Ake said that our country has no enemies and that it is an independent and sovereign state, which does not take orders from either Paris, Washington, and even less so, Tripoli (Libya).

The Ivory Coast's speech had an explosive effect on this 45th ordinary session of the OAU. After Minister Ake's clarifications, several African states that had supported Libya until now observed an embarrassing silence, which constitutes their disapproval of Libyan — expansionism.

Still concerning the Chadian problem, OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou stated in his report that "the war, which is raging in the north with new vigor, gives further confirmation to the fact that these encounters are between Chad and Libya."

Touching on the mediation of the OAU within the context of an inspection tour he made to the region, Ide Oumarou explained about the warring factions at that time: "The Chadian Government troops and those of the then armed GUNT, each camped on positions in a red zone which divided the country into two."

But, the OAU secretary general stressed, "the GUNT has experienced internal upheavals deep enough (...) to lead to a change in alliances, the most spectacular of which was the joining of the Chadian Government forces by some elements loyal to Goukouni Oueddei. This was done with the total agreement of Goukouni Oueddei himself, who was dismissed from his post as the president of the GUNT.

If for Ide Oumarou, it is from this moment that one has really begun talking about Chad-Libya encounters in the field, which allegedly hide actions carried out by an entity called the "New GUNT," the current situation presents at least two important aspects:

— The fact that the Chadian Government, which Chadians have rallied around, informed the current OAU chairman by letter in 1986 that henceforth, it regarded national reconciliation an internal affair which no longer required the good offices of the pan-African organization;

— The fact that Libya is requesting that the OAU'S call for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Chadian territory should first and foremost apply to "the imperialist forces." In light of this situation, Ide Oumarou observed that "the war that is raging in northern Chad now has put the OAU to a difficult test. This is because, after the organization has been blamed for being passive concerning the Chadian question, its members have now begun to take positions that are in dissonance — to say the least."

Let us note in passing that in his report, the OAU secretary general mentioned the difficulties that the organization is experiencing due to the nonpayment of contributions by members. We will come back to this.

Ugandan Minister on 'Rebels'

EA270018 Dakar PANA in English 1630 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Feb — The town of Gulu in northern Uganda has never been taken by rebels loyal to Basilio Okello, according to Ugandan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mukiibi. He told a press conference in Addis Ababa today that the National Resistance Army (NRA) of President Museveni had repelled every attack launched against Gulu by rebels loyal to Basilio Okello, former defence minister under the government which toppled ex-President Milton Obote of Uganda. Mukiibi was denying reports published in a British daily and a London-based Nigerian magazine.

The minister, who is attending the 45th ministerial session of the OAU currently being held in the Ethiopian capital, also rejected accusations of violations of human rights under the present regime led by President Museveni. Mukiibi accused Basilio Okello of taking advantage of the policy of national reconciliation launched by the new regime to disturb the peace of populations along the border between Sudan and Uganda. He indicated that he would discuss this matter further with his Sudanese counterpart also attending the ministerial conference in Addis Ababa.

On the situation at present in northern Uganda, Mukiibi affirmed that the area is still under the control of the government and that since December 1986 at least, 1,184 rebels have been killed with 4,500 arms of various makes seized. The minister would not deny any acts of atrocity committed in the process but simply [word indistinct] the authors of these acts were arrested and punished. No government can guarantee the noncommitment of acts of banditry on its territory, Mukiibi affirmed, adding that soldiers are presently appearing before military tribunals to "answer their misdeeds".

Closed Session Held

EA262036 Dakar PANA in English 1650 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Feb (PANA) — The 45th OAU Ministerial Council session, begun since Monday (23 Feb), is continuing its meeting behind closed doors, according to the spokesman of the organization. The ministers adopted Thursday, the report of the Permanent Committee. The commission entrusted with examining the OAU scale of assessment of contributions of member states has been enlarged and instructed to present its conclusions to the next session of the ministerial council in July, according to the organization's spokesman.

Algeria's Ibrahimi Arrives

LD262208 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Political Bureau member and foreign minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Addis Ababa this afternoon to lead the Algerian delegation to the 45th session of the OAU ministerial council. Immediately on arrival Dr Ibrahimi held talks with a number of chief delegates attending the session. He conferred with the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation on bilateral relations, the main topics on the agenda, the situation in Maghreb and the Arab East, and developments in the Palestinian camps in the light of the work of the Arab ministerial good offices committee. Dr Ibrahimi also met with the Ugandan foreign minister. They discussed scopes for developing bilateral cooperation and the economic and political aspects of the African situation. He discussed with his Senegalese counterpart a number of African political issues, especially the situations in South Africa, Western Somalia, and Chad, as well as African economic affairs. Dr Ibrahim today also received the Libyan chief delegate. They discussed topics on the session's agenda, particularly Chad.

Ethiopia's Berhanu Meets Ministers

EA271123 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1800 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister, today received and held talks with the foreign ministers [as heard] of six countries currently attending the ongoing 45th regular session of the OAU Council of Ministers. The six ministers were: Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi of Sudan; Afonso Van Dunem Mbinda of Angola; (Abi Admini) of Nigeria; Modibo Keita of Mali; Ibrahim Mukiibi of Uganda; and Lenadre Bassolt of Burkina Faso.

Comrade Berhanu talked with the Sudanese and Malian foreign ministers on revolutionary Ethiopia's relations with respective countries. His discussion with the Angolan foreign minister centered on the process of the formation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the results achieved in the resettlement and villagization programs.

Afonso van Dunem Mbinda explained his country's situation and that of southern Africa in general. He also mentioned the consolidation of the Angolan revolution and thaked revolutionary Ethiopia for its support for Angola on international forums.

Comrade Berhanu and the Nigerian foreign minister exchanged ideas on Africa's problem of resolving the overall situation in southern Africa and the attendant cooperation needed. During his discussions with the foreign ministers of Uganda and Burkina Faso, he affirmed that revolutionary Ethiopia would contribute its share toward strengthening its long-standing relations with the respective countries. Ibrahim Mukiibi said the experiences accumulated by revolutionary Ethiopia in the political, economic and social spheres in the 12 revolution years and the progress it had attained were exemplary. He added that Uganda's cooperation with revolutionary Ethiopia, particularly in the trade sector, was very great.

ALGERIA

Interior Minister Details Election Results

LD270936 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] The third legislative period of the People's National Assembly will open in a week's time, following yesterday's national elections. The national radio broadcast yesterday's election operations in all provinces. At a late hour last night, Mohamed Haj Yala, member of the FLN Politburo and minister of the interior and localities, held a news conference during which he gave the results of the third legislative elections. The official announcement will be made after the endorsement by the national committee of the minutes of the polling stations. Here are the results as announced by the minister of the interior and localities, Brother Hadj Yala.

[Begin Hadj Yala recording] The number of people registered to vote, 11,322,680; the number of voters, 9,889,100; voting participation percentage, 87.29 percent. We notice from these figures that the voting participation percentage was extremely high, which reflects the importance of the issue, the greatness of the event, and the challenges of this phase. While I proudly record this on behalf of all the country, I would like to mention that the arrangements made by the FLN provided the best possible conditions to facilitate the voting operation, which took place amid an excellent atmosphere characterized by security, voter satisfaction, and no incidents. I thank everyone who participated in the success of this national operation, which is considered a new success for our successful revolution under the leadership of Brother Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general.

Finally, I would like to express my warmest congratulations to the members of our new assembly, wishing them all success in their noble missions in the service of the revolution and the nation. [end recording]

Yesterday's legislative elections recorded a higher percentage of voting participation compared to the legislative elections of 1977 and 1982.

LIBYA

JANA Reports People's Congress Session

LD261928 Tripoli JANA in English 1825 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Sebha, al Nowar 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The General People's Congress resumed its proceedings yesterday at the People's Hall in the city of Al-Shararah al-Oula to draft the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses endorsed in their ordinary session for 1986.

In the afternoon session the secretary of the General People's Congress left the floor for the secretary of the National Congress at the municipality of Sebha who strongly condemned the imperialist colonial onslaught launched by France and U.S. against the Chadian people and imperialist plots hatched by the U.S. Administration against the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary option.

He pointed out that the plights of the Arab nation lies in the existance of rulers linked politically, economically and culturally to colonialism and know nothing except repression and terror to maintain their regimes and that they do not hesitate to commit any crime against the Arab nation towards that end.

The secretary of the National Congress deplored the crime of secession and attempts to assassinate Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. He said "and here they are repeating the same thing against the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who is shouldering the responsibilities of this nation and its problems doing that with sincere words and earnest deeds so as to change this deploring situation for another of dignity and pride for this nation which the leader of the revolution believes in and sacrifices for, for Arab nation is the dignity and pride for all free and honourable men of this nation. [sentence, quotation marks as received]

He asserted that imperialism is attempting to divert great al-Fatih revolution and great Jamahiriyah from the primary Arab battle — Palestine.

He said the American French imperialist attack to which Chad is subjected is merely a colonial attempt to divert Libya from its leading role in support of liberation causes and struggle for freedom and total Arab unity.

The secretary of the Congress of the Eastern Desert addressed the congress conveying pride of the people's congresses of the municipality to the leader of the revolution asserting that the Third Universal Theory is the only effective solution to the deseases perpetrated by the forces of oppression and tyranny aimed at creating hell to mankind. He said: "These forces can not stand this theory because of that reason [quotation marks as received]. He added, the Third Universal Theory is being translated by world masses today and followed by peoples as a policy to realise their aspirations and dreams.

Then he read the decisions taken by the masses of the Basic People's Congresses at the Eastern Desert.

Also the secretary of the Basic People's Congress at Sao Paulo in Brazil addressed the General People's Congress conveying their greetings to the masses of Basic People's Congresses as well as the national and international congresses in great Jamahiriyah and to the leader of the revolution.

He expressed his solidarity of the progressive forces and the Brazilian people condeming the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression against great Jamahiriyah.

He pointed out that after 10 years from the formation of Basic People's Congresses and their spread abroad in implementation of the Third Universal Theory linking Arab communities abroad to the bastion of Arabism becoming one united Arab people under the auspices of the great al-Fatih revolution full of belief in the revolutionary policy and leading thinking of this revolution.

The secretary of the Basic People's Congress of Mauritania in Sabha addressed the evening session reiterating the inevitability of Arab unity from the Ocean to the Gulf. He said that the Arab masses curse all capitulationist and secessionist and chauvinist and their likes. He warned the leader of international terrorism America and France of the anger of Arab masses for their blatant intervention in Chad saying that the Arab and African masses and world liberation forces will sacrifice themselves in defence of freedom against and for the defeat of America and France.

He pointed out that the defenders of freedom will not be terrorised by aircraft, missiles or barking of reactionary dogs. For the freedom defenders are daily asserting their adherence to people's authority and direct democracy and that these masses which possess power, wealth and arms decided to die for freedom and shall never know defeat.

The secretary of the Sudanese Basic People's Congress delivered a speech before the congress saying that the Sudanese Arab People's Congresses throughout Jamahiriyah declare to the whole world that great Jamahiriyah is the state of masses for all Arabs from the Ocean to the Gulf thanks to the great Al-Fatih revolution and this people which gave the Arab nation all the resources available to it giving full meaning to the dignity and honour of the Arab nation. Then the secretary of the Sudanese People's Congresses read out the decisions of the Sudanese Arab Basic Congresses to be drafted by the General People's Congress.

The secretary of the National People's Congress for Al-Jabal al-Akhdhar expressed the rejection by the Arab popular masses of all capitulationist and defeatist solutions aimed at the liquidation of the armed struggle.

Saluting the leading and significant role led by the great al-Fatih revolution and its revolutionary leader in defence of freedom and national liberation movements, the secretary pointed out that the forces of Arab revolution committed to the green masses thinking of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are capable of sparking of people's revolution and securing freedom and power, wealth and arms from the hands of ruling traitors.

He condemned the imperialist U.S.-French plots against the Chadian people and attempts to undermine the Chadian people's revolution and beseige Arab revolution. He called for the need of unity of all popular forces in the Arab homeland to confront the tenth crusader onslaught and the defeat of its stooges on Arab land.

The secretary of the National Congress of the municipality of Tripoli addressed the General People's Congress saying that the National Congresses are proudly taking part in the proceedings embodying the ultimate stage of genuine democracy and sincerely expressing the decisions of the masses concretely implementing the eternal dictum of great Jamahiriyah, the land of all Arabs.

He asserted that the great al-Fatih revolution shall remain the rock on which all hostile forces against humanity will be blown and the firm supporter of all world freedom fighters.

He added that due to the lack of total Arab unity American imperialism and world Zionism were able to influence its agents in the Arab homeland such as defunct Sadat and his shameful visit to occupied Jerusalem and the signing the agreements of humiliation and surrounder at the Stable of David...and in the absence of unity the Zionist enemy invaded Arab Lebanon...and in the absence of unity America dared to mass its fleets and warmachines attacking the peaceful cities of Tripoli and Banghazi and attempts on the life of the Arab leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

He concluded his speech by reading out the decisions of the masses of the National Congress of Tripoli Municipality to be drafted by the General People's Congress.

After short break the secretary of the National People's Congress for the municipality of Wadi al-Hayat addressed the congress thanking Jamahiriyah, the great al-Fatih revolution and its revolutionary leader for providing the opportunity to the masses to excercise people's power and the application of the Shura [as received] system as stipulated by the Holy Koran. He asserted that Libya is the school of the masses where genuine democracy is applied through people's congresses which are the ultimate stage of the movement of peoples towards the realisation of democracy thanks to the Third Universal Theory of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He said we in Jamahiriyah are inspired by the green thinking which moves humanity towards the possession of power, wealth and arms and affirm our eternal commitment as faithful soldiers to defend the great al-Fatih revolution and the maintanence of its civilised achievements.

He added we are with the people of Jamahiriyah against American tyranny and its stooges represented by Zionism, Reaction and Fascism.

The secretary of the Islamic People's Congress in Ghana addressed the General People's Congress expressing gratitude and appreciation to the masses of the great al-Fatih revolution for availing them of this opportunity to attend the proceedings of the congress. He said there is no difference between the Libyan Arab people and the Ghananian people in their way of life and policy for the implementation of justice, equality and happiness for all human beings.

He pointed out that the Ghanian people considers the green thinking as the sole solution for final freedom from all forms of tyranny and oppression inflicted on humanity and that there is no doubt that representation is a farce saying that the great al-Fatih revolution is giving great importance to the causes of Islam and Muslims as it set up the Islamic Call Society which shows the sincerity of the policy of great al-Fatih revolution.

He lauded the assistance presented by the great al-Fatih revolution to the Ghanaian people and other African people in various fields.

He made clear that American imperialism is desperately attacking the firm unity amongst the peoples of the continent which calls on all the sons of Africa to stand as one to face and foil such acts.

He said the Ghanaian people strongly rejects the American-French blatant intervention in Chad and considers it as aggression against all African peoples and that Africans should solve their problems by themselves without any foreign interference.

The secretary of the Basic People's Congress in Naples asserted that the masses thinking and human principles of the great al-Fatih revolution influenced Western Europe and revived Arab civilisation which influenced European customs and traditions.

He pointed out that traditional regimes and governments in Europe deliberately ignored Arab civilisation which was the basis of the progress and civilisation of Europe.

He said that the American imperialist aggression against the people of great Jamahiriyah was contemptuous to all European peoples and international customs and rules. He said the aggression was not aimed at the Libyan Arab people alone but on the whole Arab nation.

He made clear that the popular masses in Naples had condemned the failing U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression against the people of great Jamahiriyah, demanded the expulsion of U.S. Fleets and vessels from the Mediterranean, and considers the Gulf of Sidra as an integral part of the Libyan Arab territory and that any naval (?transgression) of the Gulf waters shall constitute a violation of great Jamahiriyah.

Condemning imperialist provocation of and hostile attempts against the people of great Jamahiriyah, he reiterated the solidarity of the popular masses in Naples with the Libyan Arab people in confronting American imperialism.

He pointed out the great al-Fatih revolution is not revolution of the Libyan Arab people but revolution of all free men, the weak and the oppressed the world over.

He said that the Third Universal Theory is the thinking of all freedom lovers and revolutionaries in the world and that they will fight alongside the Libyan Arab people against all American imperialist plots against peoples who oppose colonial policies.

The secretary of the Basic People's Congress in Naples expressed pride in the leading role played by great Jamahiriyah and its courageous stance in support of the causes of freedom everywhere.

Mohammed Salem Badinar, the secretary of the Presidium of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen, saluted the General People's Congress and the steadfastness of the people of great Jamahiriyah towards all challenges and consolidation of Arab causes. He said the congress is meeting at a very delicate [words indistinct] conditions as imperialist and Zionist are increasing against Arab and world liberation movements which make it necessary for us to unite efforts to meet the challenges and conspiracies the Arab homeland is facing.

He added that imperialist and colonial quarters are employing all resources, drawing schemes and hatching plots including military attacks on the freedom, independence and sovereignty of the Arab homeland in a bid to safe-guard imperialist interests and fulfill colonial objectives in the region.

He added that the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression against the people of great Jamahiriyah and the residence of the leader of the revolution is the best example of the barbarism and terrorism of the forces of American aggression which is against all the peoples who follow an independent policy and provoke and violate all international laws and conventions through the use and threats of force in international relations.

He called for unity of action amongst all Arab masses to stand against all schemes of aggression pointing out that the Arab nation has all resources which may enable it to consolidate and expand confrontation with the enemy.

He asserted that union of both parts of Yemen is a demand of the whole Yemeni people lauding the role played the leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution towards that end. He said that the continuing dialogue between the Arab people in great Jamahiriyah and Yemen constitutes a step towards total Arab unity as the Yemeni people considers this unity a basic demand and an essential objective.

He reiterated the support of Democratic Yemen to all liberation forces in the Arab homeland and the world over against imperialist plots and conspiracies.

Mrs. Tashtina Daramina, member of the Maltese Parliament delivered the speech of the Maltese delegation lauding the leading role played by the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution and his moral and democratic support for the Maltese people enabling them to free themselves from military constraints and basis in Malta.

She pointed to the need for the Mediterranean to become a lake of peace and the efforts being exerted by Malta and great Jamahiriyah towards that end. She expressed appreciation of the development of co-operation between great Jamahiriyah and Malta and the efforts of the Maltese Government for establishing firm relations of co-operation in various fields between the two countries giving as example the accords of co-operation signed recently between them within the context of consolidating and promoting this co-operation.

She expressed gratitude to the role played by the Libyan Arab people and its support to the Maltese people enabling it to strengthen its sovereign independence saying that the co-operation will help the Maltese people to exert further efforts to assert the neutrality of Malta.

The vice-president of the National Assembly of Madagascar addressed the General People's Congress lauding the firm relations between the peoples of great Jamahiriyah and Madagascar saying that the presence of his delegation shows clearly the depth of these relations. He pointed out that the visit of the delegation will enable them to see closely the application of direct peoples' democracy by the Libyan Arab people through its People's Congresses and committees.

He read out a letter from the president of the National Assembly of Madagascar to the General People's Congress saluting the Libyan Arab people and its revolution. The letter expressed admiration and satisfaction with a tangible development of relations between the two peoples. He said that these meetings will contribute positively and effectively in developing the existing relations of friendship and co-operation for the mutual interests of the two peoples.

The vice president highlighted in his speech the steps undertaken by the people of Madagascar along the socialist path and the civilised achievements realised by the people in various fields.

He pointed to the need of unity amongst liberation movements and peace-loving countries against imperialism, Zionism and racism and for the establishment of a new world economic and social order asserting the importance, in this respect, of the dialogue amongst developing countries — South-South dialogue.

He expressed hope that the visit of his delegation to great Jamahiriyah will contribute to the promotion of the relations of friendship between the two countries.

Session Resumes

LD262015 Tripoli JANA in English 1905 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Al Shararah al Oula, Sabha, Al Nowar 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — This evening, the General People's Congress resumed its sessions at Al Shararah al Oula-Sabha city in its 12th, ordinary session to formulate the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses which were ratified at its third ordinary session of the year 1396 A.D.M. — 1986.

The 4 committees evolved from the congress — they are following-up of resolutions and budgets committee, reports and general matters committee, the laws committee and the foreign policy committee — started their works in the 4 halls to make the initial formulation of the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses and to later put them forward to the general session of the General People's Congress, to be prepared later on to the comprehensive public session of the General People's Congress.

'Summary' of Congress Resolutions

LD270001 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1017 GMT 25 Feb 87

["Summary of resolutions" read by the assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress at its meeting in Sabha — live; all numbering as heard]

[Text] The masses of the Basic People's Congresses have debated the agenda which they have approved. These resolutions were collated at branch and municipality level. We now submit to you a summary of these resolutions as embodied in the clauses of the agenda with regard to the followup of the implementation of the resolutions, budgets, general reports, general issues, laws and foreign policy.

First clause — Discussion of the speech of the brother leader of the revolution:

The congresses which approved the contents of the speech of the brother leader of the revolution and adopted the speech as a program of action: 467 congresses — 63-45 percent;

The congresses which approved the contents of the speech of the brother leader of the revolution and adopted them as a program of action with some proposals for implementing them: 265 congresses — 36.01 percent.

First clause, b — Regarding the practical measures for building the new socialist society;

The congresses which endorsed the practical measures for building the socialist society: 227 congresses — 30.84 percent;

The congresses which endorsed the practical measures for building the socialist society with some reservations: 508 congresses — 69.02 percent.

Second clause — Following up the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Basic People's Congress in its 3d session for 1985 and which were formulated by the General People's Congress in its 11th ordinary session:

1. The congresses which expressed their satisfaction with what has been implemented and stress that the resolutions which have not been implemented thus far should be carried out: 269 congresses — 36.55 percent;

2. The congresses which have expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 364 congresses — 49.45 percent;

3. The congresses which expressed their dissatisfaction: 98 congresses — 13.32 percent.

Third clause — The budgets, regarding the financial situation in 1987:

The congresses which have endorsed the memorandum: 153 congresses — 20.79 percent;

The congresses which have endorsed the memorandum with reservations: 576 congresses — 78.26 percent;

The congresses which did not endorse the memorandum: 5 congresses — 0.68 percent.

Third clause — The budgets, B: regarding the followup of the implementation of the management budget for 1986:

The congresses which expressed their satisfaction: 513 congresses — 69.70 percent;

The congresses which expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 185 congresses — 25.13 percent;

The congresses which expressed their dissatisfaction: 32 congresses — 4.35 percent.

Third clause — The budgets, b: regarding the endorsement of the management budget for 1987:

The congresses which have endorsed the budget: 396 congresses — 53.80 percent;

The congresses which have endorsed the budget with reservations: 332 congresses — 45.11 percent;

The congresses which have refused to endorse the budget: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

c: Regarding the followup of the implementation of the development budget for 1986:

The congresses which have expressed their satisfaction: 503 congresses — 68.35 percent;

The congresses which have expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 203 congresses — 27.58 percent;

The congresses which expressed their dissatisfaction: 21 congresses — 2.85 percent.

Third clause, C — The endorsement of the development budget for 1987:

The congresses which have endorsed the budget: 336 congresses — 46.65 percent;

The congresses which have endorsed the budget with reservations: 396 congresses — 53.80 percent;

The congresses which have refused to endorse the budget: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

Third clause, D — The endorsement of the defense budget and support allocations:

The congresses which have endorsed the defense budget and the support allocations: 603 congresses — 81.93 percent;

The congresses which have endorsed the defense budget and support allocations with reservations: 133 congresses 18.07 percent.

Fourth clause — The general reports on the sector of trade and economy:

A — Regarding general importation:

The congresses which endorsed the memorandum on import for 1987: 236 congresses — 32.07 percent;

The congresses which endorsed the memorandum on import for 1987 with reservations: 493 congresses — 66.98 percent;

The congresses which expressed dissatisfaction: 2 congresses — 0.27 percent.

B — Trade and economy sector: Regarding agricultural marketing:

The congresses which have expressed their satisfaction: 69 congresses — 9.37 percent;

The congresses which have expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 565 congresses — 76.76 percent;

The congresses which have expressed their dissatisfaction: 56 congresses — 7.61 percent;

The congresses which have condemned the company: 10 congresses — 1.36 percent;

The congresses which did not endorse: 10 congresses — 1.36 percent;

The congresses which have decided to abolish the company: 25 congresses — 3.40 percent.

The agricultural sector — the report of the general agricultural production authority:

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 256 congresses — 34.78 percent;

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction: 349 congresses — 47.42 percent;

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 131 congresses — 17.80 percent.

The treasury sector — regarding the report of the Libyan Central Bank:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 311 congresses — 42.26 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 418 congresses — 56.79 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 2 congresses — 0.27 percent;

The congresses which have decided to condemn: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

The treasury sector, B — regarding the report of the Agricultural Bank:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 179 congresses — 24.32 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 551 co ngresses — 74.87 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves and expressed their dissatisfaction: 4 congresses — 0.54 percent.

The treasury sector, C — regarding the report of the Development Bank:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 316 congresses — 42.93 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction with reservations: 415 congresses — 56.39 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 2 congresses — 0.27 percent.

The treasury sector, D — regarding the report of the savings and real estate investment:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 147 congresses — 19.97 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 574 congresses — 77.99 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 9 congresses — 1.22 percent.

The treasury sector, E — regarding the report of the Libyan Arab Company for External Investments:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 435 congresses — 59.10 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and made reservations: 301 congresses — 40.90 percent.

The treasury sector, F — regarding the report of the Libyan Arab External Bank:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves and expressed their satisfaction: 305 congresses — 41.44 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction with reservations: 424 congresses — 57.60 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

The treasury sector, G — regarding the report of the Jihad Fund:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 524 congresses — 71.20 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction with reservations: 207 congresses — 28.12 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

The general report: the social security sector — regarding the report of the Social Security Fund:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 296 congresses — 40.22 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 428 congresses — 58.14 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 6 congresses — 0.82 percent.

The communications and maritime transport sector — regarding the report of the General Company of Post and Telecommunications:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 220 congresses — 29.89 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 438 congresses — 59.52 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 72 congresses — 9.78 percent;

The congresses which rejected the report: 2 congresses — 0.27 percent.

The sector of energy and petroleum — the report of the national petroleum establishment and its subsidiary companies:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 364 congresses — 49.46 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 365 congresses — 49.59 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 2 congresses — 0.27 percent;

The energy and petroleum sector — regarding the abolition of privileges and allowances currently effective in the petroleum sector:

The congresses which endorsed this paragraph: 274 congresses — 37.23 percent;

The congresses which endorsed this paragraph with reservations: 458 congresses — 62.36 percent.

The report of the General Electricity Company:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 576 congresses — 78.26 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction with reservations: 149 congresses — 20.24 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

The energy and petroleum sector — the draft procedure on the organization, distribution and consumption of energy:

The congresses which have endorsed the draft procedure: 132 congresses — 17.93 percent;

The congresses which endorsed the draft procedure with reservations: 530 congresses — 72.01 percent;

The congresses which have rejected the draft procedure: 64 congresses — 0.78 percent [figure as heard].

The industry sector — regarding the report on the strategic industrial projects:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction: 378 congresses — 51.36 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction with reservations: 355 congresses — 48.23 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

The industry sector — regarding the replies of the great man-maderiver people's committee:

The congresses which have expressed their satisfaction with the report: 400 congresses — 54.34 percent;

The congresses which have expressed their satisfaction with the report with reservations: 285 congresses — 45.52 percent;

The congresses which expressed their dissatisfaction: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

The sector of administrative and people's control — regarding the report of the central authority of administrative control:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their satisfaction: 204 congresses — 27.72 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves and expressed satisfaction with reservations: 514 congresses — 69.83 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves and expressed their dissatisfaction: 18 congresses — 2.45 percent.

Regarding the report of the audit office:

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction: 220 congresses — 29.89 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction with reservations: 501 congresses — 68.07percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and expressed their dissatisfaction: 6 congresses — 0.82 percent;

The congresses which have acquainted themselves with the report and recorded their condemnation: 4 congresses — 0.54 percent.

C: Regarding the questioning of the people's committees:

The congresses which expressed satisfaction with the people's committees: 87 congresses — 11.82 percent;

The congresses which questioned the people's committees and expressed remarks: 320 congresses — 43.48 percent;

The congresses which did not question the people's committees: 316 congresses — 42.92 percent;

The congresses which have postponed questioning: 13 congresses — 1.77 percent.

Fifth clause — General Issues:

A — Regarding the fortification of the coastline:

The congresses which have endorsed the fortifiation of the coastline: 419 congresses — 56.93 percent;

The congresses which have endorsed the fortification of the coastline with reservations: 317 congresses — 43.07 percent.

b — Regarding the application of the revolutionary administration:

The congresses which have endorsed the memorandum: 442 congresses — 60.05 percent;

The congresses which have endorsed the memorandum with reservations: 283 congresses — 38.45 percent;

The congresses which did not endorse the memorandum: 6 congresses — 0.82 percent.

c — Regarding the conception of a barter system:

The congresses which have endorsed the principle of barter: 602 congresses — 81.79 percent;

The congresses which have endorsed the principle of barter but without conception: 78 congresses — 10.60 percent;

The congresses which have postponed decision on formulating a concept for the barter system: 29 congresses — 0.35 percent;

The congresses which did not approve: 17 congresses — 0.31 percent.

D — Regarding the fixing of the period of work and study abroad and to adhere to it:

The congresses which endorsed the memorandum: 408 congresses — 55.43 percent;

The congresses which endorsed but with reservations: 323 congresses — 43.89 percent;

The congresses which did not endorse the memorandum: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

E — Regarding a concept relating to tourism organization:

The congresses which endorsed the memorandum: 411 congresses — 55.84 percent;

The congresses which endorsed with reservations: 297 congresses — 40.35 percent;

The congresses which postponed the matter: 26 congresses — 3.54 percent;

The congresses which did not endorse: 2 congresses — 0.27 percent.

F — Regarding the health file:

The congresses which endorsed the memorandum: 454 congresses — 61.69 percent;

The congresses which endorsed the memorandum with reservations: 278 congresses — 37.77 percent.

Sixth clause — Laws:

A — Regarding a draft law relating to the reconstruction of the people's court:

The congresses which have approved the draft law: 279 congresses — 37.90 percent;

The congresses which have approved the draft law with reservations: 305 congresses — 41.44 percent;

The congresses which have not approved the draft law: 115 congresses — 15.63 percent;

The congresses which have postponed their decision: 37 congresses — 5.03 percent.

B — Draft law on the reconsideration of the jurisdictions of the people's committees:

The congresses which have approved the draft law: 315 congresses — 42.80 percent;

The congresses which have approved the draft law with reservations: 373 congresses — 50.68 percent;

The congresses which have approved reconsidering the draft law: 45 congresses — 6.25 percent;

The congresses which did not approve the draft law: 2 congresses — 0.27 percent.

C — Submission of draft law on the amendment of the provisions of the income tax law:

The congresses which approved the draft law: 692 congresses — 94.02 percent;

The congresses which approved the draft law with reservations: 30 congresses — 4.08 percent;

The congresses which did not approve the draft law: 7 congresses — 0.95 percent.

D — Regarding a draft law relating to the amendment of an article in the criminal procedures law:

The congresses which approved the draft law: 315 congresses — 42.80 percent;

The congresses which approved the draft law with reservation: 373 congresses — 50.58 percent;

The congresses which did not approve the draft law: 2 congresses — 0.27 percent;

The congresses which decided to reconsider the draft law: 45 congresses — 6.25 percent.

E — Regarding a draft law on the amendment of law on the handicapped:

The congresses which approved the draft law: 527 congresses — 71.60 percent;

The congresses which approved the draft law with reservations: 202 congresses — 27.45 percent;

The congresses which rejected the draft law: 3 congresses — 0.41 percent.

F — Regarding a draft law on the call up of people under arms:

The congresses which approved the draft law: 344 congresses — 46.74 percent;

The congresses which approved the draft law with reservations: 378 congresses — 51.36 percent;

The congresses which decided to postpone the draft law: 5 congresses — 0.68 percent.

G — Regarding a draft law on the official penal code:

The congresses which approved the draft law: 290 congresses — 39.40 percent;

The congresses which approved the draft law with reservations: 367 congresses — 49.86 percent;

The congresses which did not approve the draft law: 76 congresses — 10.33 percent.

H — Regarding a draft law on temporary appointments:

The congresses which approved: 469 congresses — 63.72 percent;

The congresses which approved with reservations: 140 congresses — 19.02 percent.

The congresses which rejected the draft law: 119 congresses — 16.17 percent.

The congresses which postponed discussion of the draft law: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

I — Regarding a draft law on equality with regard to leave:

The congresses which approved the draft law: 199 congresses — 27.04 percent;

The congresses which approved with reservations: 311 congresses — 42.25 percent;

The congresses which rejected the draft law: 226 congresses — 30.71 percent.

J — Regarding maternity leave for working women:

The congresses which approved the memorandum: 171 congresses — 21.88 percent;

The congresses which approved the memorandum with reservations: 379 congresses — 51.49 percent;

The congresses which did not approve the memorandum: 62 congresses — 8.42 percent.

K — Regarding a draft law on the organization of the entry and residence of foreigners in Libya:

The congresses which approved the draft law: 400 congresses — 54.34 percent;

The congresses which approved the draft law with reservations: 330 congresses — 44.84 percent;

The congresses which did not approve the draft law: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

L — Regarding the amendment of the statute of the people's congresses:

The congresses which approved the amendment of the statute of the people's congresses: 424 congresses — 57.6 percent;

The congresses which approved the amendment of the statute of the people's congresses with reservations: 312 congresses — 42.39 percent.

Seventh clause — Foreign policy:

A — Regarding the submission of the results of the visits of the brother leader of the revolution:

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the results of the visits of the brother leader and expressed their satisfaction: 665 congresses — 90.35 percent;

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the results of the visits of the brother leader and expressed satisfaction with reservations: 71 congresses — 9.65 percent.

B — Regarding the report of the people's Foreign Liaison Bureau, the fraternal bureaus, and the people's bureaus abroad:

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction: 497 congresses — 67.52 percent;

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the report and expressed satisfaction with reservations: 214 congresses — 29.08 percent;

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the report and expressed dissatisfaction: 25 congresses — 0.43 percent.

C — Following up the unity-seeking steps with Algeria, Syria, Sudan, and Yemen:

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the report concerning the follow up of the unity-seeking steps and expressed satisfaction: 521 congresses — 70.78 percent;

The congresses which acquainted themselves with the report concerning the follow up of the unity-seeking steps and expressed satisfaction with reservations: 215 congresses — 29.42 percent.

D — Supporting the international liberation movements and pan-Arab and international organizations on the basis of action effectiveness:

Congresses which agreed to support international liberation movements on the basis of action effectiveness: 456 congresses — 61.95 percent;

Congresses which agreed to support the international liberation movements on the basis of action effectiveness but with reservations: 274 congresses — 37.23 percent;

Congresses which did not approve lending support: 6 congresses — 2.80 percent.

E — Regarding the Nonaligned Movement and the revolutionary attention to it:

Congresses which approved the memorandum: 538 congresses — 73.10 percent;

Congresses which approved the memorandum but with reservations: 198 congresses — 26.90 percent.

F — Regarding U.S. presence in the Mediterranean and its effect on relations between the Al-Jamahiriyah and littoral states, particularly Italy:

Congresses which approved the memorandum: 309 congresses — 41.98 percent;

Congresses which approved the memorandum but with reservations: 427 congresses — 58.2 percent.

G — Regarding the question of confronting the Zionist penetration of the Arab homeland:

Congress which approved the memorandum: 335 congresses — 45.51 percent;

Congresses which approved the memorandum but with reservations: 401 congresses — 54.49 percent.

H — Regarding defining our stand toward the states in accordance with their attitude toward the U.S.-Atlantic aggression:

Congresses which approved the memorandum: 106 congresses — 14.40 percent;

Congresses which approved the memorandum but with reservations: 629 congresses — 85.46 percent;

Congresses which rejected the memorandum: 1 congress — 0.14 percent.

I — Regarding the question of confronting imperialism in Chad:

Congresses which debated the current situation in Chad and decided to support the Chadian people for the liberation of their country and confronting the imperialist aggression with reservations: 691 congresses — 93.79 percent;

Congresses which debated the current situation in Chad and decided to support the Chadian people to liberate their country and confront the imperialist aggression: 45 congresses — 6.11 percent.

Foreign policy, 2 — Regarding the ratification of treaties and agreements between the great Al-Jamahiriyah and fraternal and friendly countries:

Congresses which approved ratification of the treaties and agreements: 671 congresses — 91.16 percent;

Congresses which approved the ratification of treaties and agreements but with reservations: 65 congresses — 8.84 percent.

Algerian Official Speaks

LD261626 Tripoli JANA in English 1103 GMT 26 Feb 87

['Khaldoun Gives Speech Before G.P.C." — JANA headline]

[Text] Sebha, Al Nowar 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Mr. Bachir Khaldoun, Central Committee member of Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) has hailed the General People's Congress which started its sessions yesterday.

He has conveyed to the leader of the revolution the greetings of Algerian president, Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, stressing that his country has started to build bridges to achieve Arab unity to put an end to fragmentation the Arab nation is suffering from now.

The present situation, he continues, has made the two revolutions in great Jamahiriyah and Algeria to reaffirm the common destiny as people are pressing to make these two revolutions to be closly linked to build one Arab homeland.

The threats posed against the Arab nations, he stresses, (?make) it necessary to think deeply about the relations between our 2 countries and through them the future of the Arab relations in general will be seen.

He adds that they in his country realize the dangers posed by the transformation of a piece of the Arab land adjacent to Libya in the East to be a grazing pasture for the Zionists and a visiting place for the heads of the Zionist entity.

He points out that similar to this situation is witnessed by Algeria to be happening on its western border.

He continues that the [words indistinct] of the Green Book and of the party of FLN [passage indistinct].

Speaking on Palestine, he has lauded the supportive stand of both the two revolutions alongside the Palestine people in its struggle against the Zionist occupation.

He stresses that the two revolutions in Algeria and Libya must specify and uncover the dances regarding the Palestinian [words indistinct] the cards have been mixed, he points out, and we start to have doubts about even those regimes which allege to be progressive. One may ask now who is faithful to Palestine and who is the traitor to it. Such is the real specification.

He adds that the General People's Congress in great Jamahiriyah have had a right to resolve this stand and [words indistinct] whether the Arabs [words indistinct] Palestine to be independent.

[Words indistinct] the question of Palestine is our cause - we the Arabs. It is not the cause of the Zionists. Neither, of the U.S. nor still of the Soviets even if they are friend and allies.

Mr. Khaldoun says that sacrifices are necessary to liberate Palestine. The road to liberation, he stresses, starts first by liberating our own selves to get rid of regionalism and fragmentation.

Peace can be achieved worldwide, the Arab East and in our two countries through specifying our stances vis-a-vis the Palestinian question.

He points out that following Arab-Islamic differences in the East, the beginning of this conspiracy has started to appear in our region specifically in Chad threatening great Jamahiriyah and on the western border of Algeria.

Such a situation compels us to think deeply about the future of the Arab region especially in Northern Africa targetted by the horrible scheme which has been carried out in Arab Islamic East.

Should we not make a stop to this as the leader of the revolution said in one of his speeches, the Zionist death train will be a reality extending from the Ocean to the Gulf.

He stresses that the abortive and barbaric aggression launched against great Jamahiriyah and the continuing (?U.S.) provocations against it, not to mention the armed aggression against it launched last year come within this design that aims at wrecking the revolutionary and progressive regimes in North Africa. It won't as a consequence permit the establishment of progressive regimes in my country, for such regimes will threaten the imperialist schemes especially those concocted by the U.S. and the Zionists.

Mr. Khaldoun has stressed that Algeria as a people and revolution stands firmly alongside great Jamahiriyah against any imperialist aggression aiming at trespassing its territory or security. Hence, the Algerian revolution has been in direct contact with the leadership in great Jamahiriyah and has taken measures at the level of the two leaderships.

He stresses that the peoples of both countries believe that the future of this region lies in the two giants, namely, great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

He adds that since the meeting held between the leader of the revolution and Algerian President, Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, in [word indistinct] and recently in Surt, the bilateral relations have witnessed a realistic direction that will with God's help result in building the bridges of unity we aspire for.

He points out that a joint political action group between the great al-Fatih revolution and the Algerian November revolution have been studying the literatures of the two revolutions to get to the common ground, for these revolutions are democratic, of Islamic spirit, not to mention being a patriotic starting-point and pan-Arabist in language and culture.

Mr. Khaldoun stresses that the joint committees that have been working to put forward conceptions regarding the unionist action between Algeria and great Jamahiriyah will present its conclusions to the Basic People's Congresses in great Jamahiriyah and Algerian people, the aim being to reach a complementary document representing a basis to build a unity between Libya and Algeria. The citizens in both countries will be enabled to get out of the era of putting forward slogans to achieve concrete actions. As such, all pretexts that have obstructed previous unionist experiments will be refuted.

He stresses that the unionist action future between Libya and Algeria will protect the safety and security of the region to strengthen the direction towards achieving Arab unity.

He points out that our peoples should be transformed from consumers to producers.

He lauds the experiment of the General People's Congress as being deep-rooted and revolutionary.

On the basis of the experiments of the two revolutions in great Jamahiriyah, Algeria and other experiments in the Arab homeland, the peoples in the East and West of the Arab homeland together with other peoples in the Third World will be emancipated.

On concluding his speech, Mr. Khaldoun hails the participants in the congress adding that Algerian people will never forget the assistance given to it by the Libyan Arab people.

He hopes that the congress will reach resolutions that are up to the level of this stage through which the Arab homeland is going. He ends his speech by saying glory to our martyrs and the leading revolutions.

Pan-Arab, Palestinian Secretaries Speak

LD261921 Tripoli JANA in English 1744 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tripoli, al Nowar 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Following the reading of assistant secretary of the General People's Congress of the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses, 4 committees were formed to make the first formulation of the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses. Then, speeches were given by the secretaries of the pan-Arab and international congresses.

In his speech, the secretary of Palestinian Basic People's Congresses says that we celebrate on this occasion on the establishment of people's power in great Jamahiriyah thereby it has become the land of the international centre for combatting against imperialism, fascism, Zionism, racism and reaction, apart from being now the headquarters of the pan-Arab command of the Arab revolutionary forces. Great Jamahiriyah deserves this status.

He adds that the masses of the Palestinian Basic People's Congresses believe in the Third Universal Theory and announce that the people's road is the only one for the liberation of Palestine.

He says that the reactionary pro-West Arab regimes are to blame for the atrocities going on in the Arab homeland.

He stresses that the call of the leader of the revolution has made the Lebanese pan-Arab youth close ranks with Palestinians in the Lebanon to lift the siege laid on the Palestinian camps. Other Arab regimes kept silent on the man-slaughter of the Palestinians there.

He reiterates that the Palestinian people reject all the liquidationist proposals for its cause — the liberation of its land — Palestine.

He has reaffirmed the condemnation of his people of the U.S.-French military intervention in Chad.

Other speakers at the above congress were the secretary of the Pan-Arab Basic People's Congress in Banghazi, the secretary of the International Basic People's Congress in Tripoli and the secretary of the Basic People's Congress in Faya Municipality.

The secretary of the International Basic People's Congress in Tripoli delivered a speech stressing that the direct democracy applied by the Libyan Arab people is the correct road for achieving it worldwide.

He reaffirms that the U.S.-NATO aggression launched against great Jamahiriyah last year has not managed to achieve its objectives. Hence, child-killer Reagan administration is conspiring with France to wreck great Jamahiriyah from its southern border.

The secretary has meanwhile, announced the formation of the international army capable of saving mankind from imperialism. The U.S., he adds, is the principal terrorist enemy of peoples the world over.

He points out that the masses of the congress have decided to regard the speech given by the leader of the revolution at the non-aligned summit as their programme to implement it for the sake of achieving freedom for peoples earth wide.

He has also condemned those African heads of states who have decided to resume diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy as illegitimate. The African peoples, he adds, are called upon to topple these puppets.

He continues that the masses of his congress in Tripoli have decided to make the Green Book as the only reference for the international congresses and that the leader of the revolution is our teacher and leader. We, therefore, are prepared to propagate the green thoughts defending it worldwide.

The secretary of the pan-Arab congress in Al-Bayan al-Awal Municipality gave a speech stressing that the masses have become now the thoughts of the leader of the revolution in practice, for the leader is the hope and the light that gets rid of darkness which prevails in the Arab homeland.

The great al-Fatih revolution, he adds, rejects the traitorous, compromist solutions, stressing that in the minds of the revolutionary cells led by the leader of the revolution is the first objective of dismantling this deteriorating situation.

He asserts that the great al-Fatih revolution calls for establishing the unionist Arab state, getting rid once and for all of all regionalistic aspects.

He has called on all freedom-fighters to assemble in great Jamahiriyah to create a pan-Arab army to start the march of the people to build the new Arab homeland free from regionalism. Such an achievement, he points out, will be realized through the implementation of the historic speech given by the leader of the revolution in Zuwarah and the commencement of practical implementation of the social part of the Green Book, reformulating the document of people's power by the announcement of Arab people's power scrapping all regionalistic laws, not to mention commencing building the pan-Arab army and bringing back the Arab emigrants especially those with scientific and technical skills who live in Europe.

Cuban Delegation Arrives

LD261843 Tripoli JANA in English 0842 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tripoli, al Nowar 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Mr. 'Armando Augusto' the member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and the coordinator of the Revolution's Defence Committees and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening to attend the sessions of the General People's Congress and take part in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of people's authority and the birth of first jamahiriyah in history.

In a statement to JANA, Mr. Armando expressed happiness to attend and take part in the people's celebrations of this occasion.

He confirmed the deep-rooted relations that bind both Libyan Arab and Cuban peoples together in the joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Rumors on 'Disappearance' of Jallud Noted

NC262107 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2045 GMT 26 Feb 87

[From the "Voice of the Libyan People" program]

[Text] There are several rumors about the disappearance of 'Abd al-Salam Jallud. One rumor has it that he has been banished for a limited period of time. Another says he is on the run from Al-Qadhdhafi. A third holds he is being detained by the Syrians. Yet a fourth rumor says that Jallud will be appointed Libya's ambassador in Moscow.

However, the most important point is that Jallud has been absent from Libya for over 2 months. This indicates that there are differences between him and Al-Qadhdhafi.

JANA on French Reinforcements Arriving in Chad

LD261819 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Paris, al Nowar 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The French authorities continue the reinforcement of their military presence in Chad, consolidate and tighten their control on many positions inside Chad.

Yesterday sources of the French war ministry said that the present French troops in Chad number 3,150 and will become 3,500 in the coming weeks.

Recently many French battalions arrived in 'Biltine', 'Abeche' and 'Klaiet' from the Central African bases 'Boir' and 'Bangui'.

French engineering units are presently building observation posts and anti-aircraft [word indistinct] in eastern Chad.

Chad 'Full Military Zone'

LD270945 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Paris, Al Nowar 27, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Official reports published in Paris yesterday asserted that "Abeche" region has turned into a full military zone and a centre for massing French ammunition and arms that arrives from Paris and from French bases in puppet states.

The reports also indicated that occupied Ndjamena has become a centre for French military Mirage and Jaguar aircraft's operations and a centre for their deployment to all areas in Chad.

MOROCCO

Foreign Minister Filali Pays Visit to Italy

For reportage on Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali's 3-day visit to Italy, including his meetings with Italian President Francesco Cossiga and Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Filali's 27 February news conference in Rome, see the Italy section of the 27 February Western Europe *Daily Report*.

SUDAN

Minister on Relations With United States, Others

PM270949 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 21 Feb 87 pp 21, 22

[Interview with Salah 'Abd al-Salam al-Khalifah, Sudanese minister of cabinet affairs (title as published), by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts][Introductory passage omitted][Matar] In light of your numerous meetings in the United States, do you think that the U.S. Administration shows the sort of understanding the new Sudan requires? How would you assess the U.S. Administration's stand toward you?

[Al-Khalifah] All that can be said in this regard is that the Americans have shown complete understanding of Sudan's new policy adopted by the current government. We spared no efforts in conveying, directly or indirectly, our policy to the Americans at all levels. The Americans might have understood it correctly, or they might not have understood it, or they might have understood it but not agreed. At present it is not easy for us to say anything in this respect.

But what is very clear to me is that the Americans have felt that there is a new entity in Sudan, that there is a clear policy, and that there is a government that takes the side of the Sudanese people and their interests more than ever in the past, especially in the past 16 years.

The Americans know for certain that we have a policy that does not align, directly or indirectly, with one side or another. Our policy stems from the interests of the Sudanese people as a whole. In my opinion, there is no reason for the Americans to think otherwise.

[Matar] But the United States wants subservience to its policy, not just friendship. Do you believe the United States will support Sudan's new policy, or will it be content with not being hostile to Sudan?

[Al-Khalifah] So far we have not felt any kind of hostility. In fact the contrary. We have received the aid we requested, together with the aid that was suspended. The Americans have actually participated in the desert and drought relief operations. Some other aid has also been resumed. If anything, this shows that the Americans have not adopted a hostile line; otherwise they would have stopped any existing plan, whatever it might have been. But they have not done so.

[Matar] To what extent can they understand Sudan's friendship with some states considered by Washington as enemies?

[Al-Khalifah] In short, I will mention the example of the Sudan-Libya question: We explained the idea to the Americans and they accepted it. We will go where the Sudanese people's interest lies, as it is our concern. We will not be hostile without justification; we will not be driven toward certain objectives; we will not be drawn into the orbit of any of the camps. We cooperate with countries the way they cooperate with us and in the interest of the Sudanese people.

[Matar] Many people in the West have talked of U.S. support for John Garang's movement. Do you believe that this will affect relations between Khartoum and Washington?

[Al-Khalifah] Undoubtedly the Americans were dealing with John Garang. We heard about this and also heard that the World Council of Churches is cooperating with Garang. We hear many things. But the Americans, at direct meetings at all levels, denied that they have any relations with John Garang or his movement.

[Matar] Is the official denial enough?

[Al-Khalifah] We can deal with more than the official denial. We know who supports John Garang but denies doing so, as in the case of the World Council of Churches, for example. Both the Americans and the Soviets deny this. But we know for certain that U.S. aid and other aid is being provided to Garang, while these states are denying the existence of any relations with him. We find that the media are more available to Garang than to the Sudanese Government. [passage omitted]

[Matar] What is the official request that you are carrying to the U.S. Government?

[Al-Khalifah] We just want the U.S. Government to understand the situation in Sudan correctly and to understand that Sudan's only concern is to live a free, democratic, and honorable life.

[Matar] Do you believe that the support you are receiving from the Soviet Union in all fields is up to your expectations?

[Al-Khalifah] As you know, relations between the two countries deteriorated to breaking point during the era of the defunct regime. During that period almost all Soviet aid was stopped. Some of the aid was related to installations like Suba University Hospital; some was in the form of arms, as well as spare parts. We are now trying to build relations with the Soviet people and Government on a new basis and within our new concept of the situation in Sudan.

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to the Soviet Union was his first visit to a non-African country and his second outside Sudan since he took office. In fact, the invitation was originally sent to the head of the transitional government, who was unable to respond to it. Therefore the Soviets renewed their invitation after the elections; thus Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi agreed to show Sudan's new image to a superpower against whom a hostile attitude cannot be adopted.

Therefore the protocol reached during this visit was encouraging and proves that there are signs of cooperation at high levels.

[Matar] Have you sensed any Soviet pressure on Ethiopia to stop its support for John Garang?

[Al-Khalifah] I can say that the Soviet Union completely understood our problem, and because of this understanding I expect it to play a certain role. How? This is up to them.

[Matar] The Sudanese Government suggested to Ethiopia a peace plan for the Horn of Africa. So far we have not heard of any reply to this. Are there any developments in this regard?

[Al-Khalifah] So far, no.

[Matar] Do you expect a reply?

[Al-Khalifah] We do.

[Matar] In the near future?

[Al-Khalifah] God willing.

[Matar] Within what framework?

[Al-Khalifah] Within the framework of mutual understanding of one another's problems. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi presented ideas and programs to the World Bank and the IMF, but because they were incomplete programs, the economic agencies' aid to Sudan has been suspended. Have programs and ideas been completed in an integral plan that would facilitate the resumption of dealing with international monetary agencies?

[Al-Khalifah] They have not yet been completed. In fact the grave legacy that the government inherited from the defunct regime made the United States think again about the call for Arab and foreign investment. But once we finish dealing with priorities we will then be able to complete the necessary studies. [passage omitted]

Soviet Delegation Concludes Visit, Departs

JN261805 Khartoum SUNA in English
1742 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum Feb 26 (SUNA) — The Soviet parliamentary delegation returned home today concluding a two week long visit to the country in response to an invitation by the Constituent Assembly (parliament).

In a press statement at Khartoum airport the deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who headed delegation, said that the delegation had touched a convergency in view-points of the two countries on a number of issues discussed during the delegation's meetings with members of the Constituent Assembly and the government officials particularly in the efforts being exerted for disarmament.

The head of the delegation also said that he had touched positive efforts for promoting cooperation between the two countries.

State Council Member Returns From Chad

JN261824 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1746 GMT
26 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (SUNA) — State Council member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din returned home from Chad at 1500 today.

Taj al-Din left for Chad the day before yesterday leading the Sudanese committee mediating to solve the conflict in Chad. This was the second visit by Dr Taj al-Din to Chad as part of the Sudanese efforts to solve the Chadian conflict.

SPLA Radio Reports 12, 14 February Clashes

EA270005 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpt] On 12 and 14 February 1987 SPLA units of Mazlum Battalion under overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Deng Along clashed with Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia at (Materia) village in northern Upper Nile. Twenty-nine of Sadiq's militia were killed, including one lieutenant and one sergeant, and many others were wounded. One lorry was captured in good working order with plate No A15086 and two other lorries were completely destroyed, bearing the following plate numbers: lorry No 5627 and lorry No 5477. One pistol discarded by Sadiq's militia was found in good working condition, bearing number 2524. [passage omitted]

Customs Officers Score 'Warning,' Resume Strike

JN261128 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 26 (SUNA) — Customs and production tax officers have denounced a warning by Finance and Eeconomic Planning Minister and resumed the strike which was lifted yesterday.

The resumption of the strike came as a retaliation to a strong-worded statement by Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Bashir 'Umer last Tuesday in which he stressed that legal measures will be taken against the strikers if they were not to resume work within twenty-four hours.

Secretary General of the Customs and Production Tax Officers Union Arman M. Ahmad has described the minister's warning as unacceptable.

The minister has earlier described the strike as illegal. The customs officers who had consented to resume work following a meeting with Supreme Council chairman decided to continue their strike after the ill-timed statement of the finance minister. The officers said they would continue the strike as was scheduled, that is till next Saturday.

The finance minister in a televised statement has warned that newly recurited officers would be liable to dismisal according the labour codes in the country. The move of the minister was apparently aimed at splitting the ranks of the strikers thus forcing them back to work.

The minister's move is however backed by a cabinet decision that no minister should meet a union that enters a strike in a bid to force the government respond to the demands.

The customs and production tax officers claim that they seek the administrative reform of the customs sectors all over the country.

The point that serious mismanagement practices have led to the illicit wealth of some people at the expense of the Sudanese citizens. They did not elaborate on the issue.

The strike started last Sunday and has crippled the work in some ports in the country.

TUNISIA

Prime Minister Sfar on ICO, Gulf Ties, Reforms

JN222120 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 21 Feb 87 p 14

[Interview with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar by correspondent Taj al-Din 'Abd al-Haq in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd al-Haq] You recently attended the Fifth ICO Summit in Kuwait. How do you assess its results and what hopes do you pin on the ICO in the future?

[Sfar] I had the honor of representing His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba at the Fifth ICO Summit held in fraternal Kuwait. The Tunisian delegation's participation stemmed from Tunisia's eagerness to support any collective effort to serve the causes of the entire Islamic group and from its belief in the need to support the ICO and all the other bodies that endeavor to reunite the ranks, since this is one of the constants in Tunisian policy laid down by President Bourguiba since independence. [passage omitted]

['Abd al-Haq] The Tunisian foreign minister's Gulf tour was your government's first political activity abroad. Do you believe that priority must be given to Tunisian-Gulf countries relations? Can one say that this tour sought to refute reports about a change in Tunisia's Arab policy following the recent cabinet changes?

[Sfar] Tunisia, the Muslim Arab country, pays special attention to its relations with Arab brothers because it is linked to them by a common civilization, language, and religion, not to mention common concerns and interests. These relations are not transient or dictated by specific interests. Tunisia's Arab relations are one of the constants in its foreign policy. We do not accept any argument that will undermine the reality of our belief in the need for Arab economic integration. We are always ready to hold further consultations and coordination for the good of the entire Arab nation. The only thing that took place is that President Bourguiba decided to carry out a change in government that was dictated by domestic circumstances and also decided to introduce some reforms into the educational system following the negative results of the 1986 exams. Some tendentious people tried to imply that some changes were made in Tunisia's Arab policy, saying that we abandoned the teaching of the Arabic language. This is a grave falsification of facts which we categorically reject because Tunisia's policy is based on firm constants President Bourguiba outlined when the struggle for liberation began. How can one imagine that we can forsake the principles to which Bourguiba has devoted his entire life? The man continues to lead

Tunisia. We cannot imagine how our Arab brothers may doubt the sincerity of our Arab and Islamic policies.

As for the visits by our foreign minister, they were not restricted to Gulf countries but also included Maghreb countries and European countries. Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk's visits to the Arab countries in the Arab east and the Arab Maghreb stem from our constant concern to entrench bonds of brotherhood and relations of cooperation among the Arab brothers in the service of our Arab people's interests.

['Abd al-Haq] Political quarters and the media say your government is one of technocrats with economic reform as its first objective. Can you specify your economic priorities and how you will tackle development requirements in the forthcoming stage?

[Sfar] Before replying to your question, I would like to put things within their true perspective to avoid any ambiguity. You have been addressing me as if I am a prime minister. Our political regime in Tunisia is a presidential regime. This means that the president is also the prime minister. As for the claim that our government is one of technocrats, all I can say is that it seems this judgment has been made on the fact that we have devoted our attention to tackling economic problems first. This was necessitated by the economic pressures we experienced in the first months of last year. Our preoccupation with economics does not mean that we will ignore the other issues of our society. [passage omitted]

Our program of reforms seeks to gradualy free the Tunisian economy from restrictions and to release the potentialities so they may have the opportunity to create wealth. We seek to establish a propitious atmosphere for our institutions to enable them to be competitive in foreign markets. This is the only option we have if we want our economy to grow and if we want to secure a livelihood for our future generations. This is in line with the philosophy of our Destourian Socialist Party, which seeks to make all sectors participate in the creation of wealth. The measures we have adopted are not only to tackle the consequences resulting from the world economic crisis, but also have been dictated by the development of the Tunisian economy over the past 30 years.

These are the most important measures that were taken in this respect:

1. Controlling expenditures and rationalizing consumption, as well as freeing prices and lifting restrictions on foreign trade while continuing to expand exports.

2. Providing the necessary funds for rendering the program a success on the domestic and external level. Many friendly countries and international financial institutions have shown complete understanding toward our program. The features of this program have also enabled us to negotiate with financiers with the best chances of success.

3. Preparing structural measures that will enable Tunisian economic institutions to carry out initiatives and activities and to control their expenditures, reorganize their state of affairs, and fully assume their responsibilities.

['Abd al-Haq] One of your first measures on the domestic level was to make the parties participate in the economic and social council. Can this measure be viewed as the prelude to allowing political parties to participate in government?

[Sfar] The plurality of parties in Tunisia is something tangible and one of the manifestations of political life and the democratic practice in our country. This has been the case since President Habib Bourguiba adopted the historic decision allowing those who differ with us in their opinion to carry out their activities within the framework of state institutions. However, one must not confuse between the plurality of parties and democracy because plurality of parties is only one aspect of the democracy the Tunisian citizen is experiencing in every walk of life. Bourguiba's philosophy, on which our system is based, is a humanitarian philosphy in all the meanings of the word. [passage omitted]

The decision allowing opposition parties to participate in the economic and social council stems from his excellency the president's eagerness to give these opposition parties the opportunity to demonstrate their good intentions and to have them participate in the initiation of a responsible national dialogue among all the forces in our country. In doing this, we proceed from the fact that the permission for those who differ with us in their opinion to voice their opinion will inevitably lead to a national accord from which the nation will benefit. [passage omitted]

['Abd al-Haq] Tunisian circles abroad speak about the aim of carrying out a reconciliation with some Tunisian leaders who are living abroad. Are there any such intentions, and if so what bases has the government set for such reconciliations?

[Sfar] In my opinion, the presence of some Tunisian leaders abroad does not constitute such an important issue. Some have been sentenced by the courts. Others voluntarily chose to live abroad. This is their business and we must not interfere in this. I do not believe that such an issue can be as important as the problems we are currently tackling, problems that deal with the fate of an entire nation.

['Adb al-Haq] Tunisia has always supported the establishment of the greater Arab Maghreb and at one time had put forth a formula similar to that of the GCC for the attainment of this objective. Do you believe the GCC formula is suitable for the Arab Maghreb, and are there any endeavors to achieve coordination among Maghreb countries?

[Sfar] Tunisia is an indivisible part of the Arab Maghreb. This is one of the invariable principles we have been adopting since the inception of the liberation movement. [passage omitted]

To achieve this objective, Tunisia has exerted and continues to exert all efforts. We have now succeeded in establishing the bases for bilateral cooperation in many fields, particularly in the economic and social fields, specifically with Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania. We are doing our best to move from the stage of bilateral cooperation to that of a multifaccted cooperation among Arab Maghreb countries so that we may attain an integrated Arab Maghreb economic entity in accordance with formulas that will be compatible with our state of affairs. However, the great hope we pin on the attainment of the unity of the Arab Maghreb must not make us ignore the obstacles that obstruct our course. The most important obstacle is the Western Sahara issue. We hope we will be able to overcome these obstacles and to achieve the progress and development to which our people aspire through the establishment of the Arab Maghreb economic market, which has become an urgent necessity. We, the officials, must assume our responsibilities in this respect.

['Abd al-Haq] There are Tunisian and Palestinian assurances that bilateral relations are good and that the two sides agreed to the transfer of the military headquarters from Tunisia. Nevertheless, some are talking about Tunisian Government restrictions on the Palestinian movement. Do such restrictions really exist? If they exist, has an agreement been reached with the PLO about them?

[Sfar] We have nothing to add to emphasize our full and unconditional support for the brotherly Palestinian people in their struggle to liberate their land and establish their independent state under the leadership of PLO, their sole legitimate representative. Supporting the nations struggling for liberation is one of the most important pillars of Tunisia's foreign policy. As a reminder, the relationship between Tunisia and the PLO was and will continue to be strong and based on mutual respect, particularly respect for independent decision. Although our country was attacked as a result of hosting the leadership and some Palestinian fighters, we did not think of imposing restrictions on the PLO. The transfer of the military headquarters and fighters was a Palestinian choice pertaining to the PLO alone because it is free to draw up its military strategy.

['Abd al-Haq] There have been increasing Egyptian-Arab contacts on various levels. Does Tunisia support Egypt's return to the Arab fold? If such a return takes place, will the Arab League Headquarters be automatically transferred to Cairo once again?

[Sfar] No one denies that Egypt occupies an excellent position among the Arab countries. No one can ignore its strategic weight and the fact that its departure from the Arab ranks caused a serious rift which benefited the enemy. Egypt's restoration of its position is something that should be dealt with within the same framework in which a decision was taken to dismiss it from Arab action, reasons known by all and which are still present. In our opinion, an Arab summit conference is the only ideal framework within which this subject can be discussed.

['Abd al-Haq] The Tunisian Government stated that the pending question of compensating Tunisian workers who were working in Libya prevents the normalization of bilateral relations. How much progress has been made through the efforts being exerted to resolve this question?

[Sfar] Contacts between the two countries are continuing. We managed to restore some of Tunisian Airways' money, but could not resolve the payments problem due to over 30,000 workers whom the Libyan authorities expelled in the summer of 1985. While we greatly hope to improve our relations with Libya in view of the love and appreciation we cherish for the brotherly Libyan people, we insist on the need to solve all pending problems before talking about the restoration of normal relations.

['Abd al-Haq] The movement of foreign fleets in the Mediterranean has increased, and since Tunisia is one of the littoral states, do you support the idea of keeping the Mediterranean basin zone free of foreign fleets?

[Sfar] During the past few years, the Mediterranean basin zone witnessed serious developments threatening the security of the countries and peoples in the region due to the recent acts of violence and tension. We aspire to balanced, serious work to remove all reasons for the tension. We hope that we, together with the parties concerned in the region's security, will manage to handle any differences that may occur peacefully and without resorting to force so that this sensitive area will become an area of security, peace, and both fruitful and constructive cooperation.

['Abd al-Haq] It is well known that Tunisia and the UAE are linked by distinguished relations. What are the prospects for these relations in the coming stage? Is there anything you want to say to the UAE's people on this occasion?

[Sfar] Relations between Tunisia and the UAE are deep-rooted and excellent. They continue to develop as directed by His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba and his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. We are working seriously to develop these relations in all areas of cooperation and to achieve whatever is in the two countries' interests. [Passage omitted]

WESTERN SAHARA

Communique Says 'Hundreds' of Moroccan Casualties

LD261612 Algiers Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] A new victory for the Saharan fighters, a victory arising from a major operation launched yesterday in the Farsia sector in the Western Sahara. It was a successful operation, resulting in hundreds of Moroccan soldiers killed or injured and several score of them taken prisoner. The new success permits the Saharan fighters to control the terrain in depth so that the counterattack led by the 7th Mechanized Infantry Brigade had to turn back in disorder.

Two colonels of the Royal Army were killed and the Saharan Defense Ministry Communique, which reports this information, adds that a large amount of weaponry, equipment, and documents were recovered.

Detailed results of the offensive will be issued later.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Meets Egyptian, Somali, Burundi Envoys

EA260421 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today received messages from leaders of two countries, and also met Somalia's minister of state for foreign affairs.

At a ceremony in the comrade secretary general's special office at the Grand Palace, Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak, while Burundi Foreign Minister Egide Nkuriyingoma delivered a message from Burundi President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. After receiving the messages, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam held separate talks with the delegations on relations between revolutionary Ethiopia and the respective countries, and also on Africa, the Middle East, and the current international situation.

Receiving the Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Muhammad Ali Hamud, the comrade secretary general spoke with him on relations between the two countries and current issues concerning the continent.

Present on the occasion was Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and foreign affairs minister, and ambassadors of the respective countries.

Foreign Minister Receives DPRK Official, Others

EA251501 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1800 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister, received and held talks with the delegates of three countries at his office this afternoon. The delegates who were received by and held talks with Comrade Berhanu were Comrade Choe Chong-kun, member of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and foreign trade minister of the DPRK; Dr Muhammad 'Ali Hamud, SDR minister of state for foreign affairs; and Comrade Daniel (Sal Mabandi), Mozambican vice foreign minister.

During his talks with Comrade Choe Chong-kun, Comrade Berhanu remarked on the ever-increasing and strengthening relations and cooperation between revolutionary Ethiopia and the DPRK and said that the current visit of his delegation to revolutionary Ethiopia would contribute to further strengthening this cooperation. He also noted that the ever-increasing cooperation was the result of the meetings of the leaders of the two countries and that the exchange of ideas and experiences at various levels had been fruitful.

Comrade Choe Chong-kun for his part said that during his visit, through the discussions he held and the development projects he toured, he was able to understand the victories achieved by the people through the WPE's guidance. He praised the efforts being made to implement the 10-year plan, and particularly the 3-year plan.

Comrade Choe Chong-kun discussed the current situation in his country and exchanged views on the conference on South-South cooperation due to be held in Pyongyang soon.

Similarly, Comrade Berhanu held talks with Dr Muhammad 'Ali Hamud, SDR minister of state for foreign affairs, and reviewed relations between the two countries. During the discussions, they agreed that the talks that had started between the two countries [words indistinct] and the understanding reached during the second round of talks should resume in Addis Ababa when time permits.

In addition, he held talks with the vice minister of foreign affairs of Mozambique on the present situation in southern Africa, particularly that of Mozambique. [passage indistinct]

Polish Official Comments on Visit, Departs

EA260441 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0930 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Czeslaw Kiszczak said that the progress and victories achieved by revolutionary Ethiopia in the last few revolutionary years were great and were satisfactory in comparison with the age-old prerevolution period.

Comrade Czeslaw Kiszczak, member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and minister of internal affairs, said this yesterday evening prior to his departure for home at Bole International Airport after completing a working visit to revolutionary Ethiopia.

He added that during his tour of various areas, he was able to confirm that the country had reached a higher stage through the unreserved efforts made in all spheres since the upsurge of the revolution and at present under the guidance of the WPE, particularly the leadership of Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. He added that the activities being undertaken were satisfactory and reliable.

Comrade Kiszczak noted that the task of moving compatriots affected by drought to settle them in fertile areas was a (?humane) measure and had made a great contribution to increasing production. During his tour of the resettlement centers, he was able to see what had been produced by cultivating virgin lands and from the discussions he held with the settlers, he was able to confirm that the situation of the compatriots had improved. He said he had learned that the items produced at the resettlement centers not only support the surrounding areas but also other areas. This proves the correctness and reliability of the program, he said.

Comrade Kiszczak stressed that he was satisfied with the care of orphans with the establishment of the children's village and said he was amazed at the facilities at the school.

He said the delegation was able to obtain a higher understanding through the general briefing given by our comrade revolutionary leader, who received and held talks with them. The discussions, which centered on issues of mutual interest, were significant and, in general, the Polish ministers' working visit to revolutionary Ethiopia was fruitful.

The delegation was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Fiseha Desta, member of the Politburo and secretary of the WPE Central Committee.

Mengistu Reports to Constitution Commission

EA231201 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1738 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Report by Mengistu Haile Mariam to a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Constitution Referendum Commission; held in Addis Ababa on 21 February — recorded]

[Text] Dear members of the Constitution Referendum Commission: Now that the working people of Ethiopia have rid themselves of age-old exploitation and oppression, have decided their destiny, and have created a situation in which their common prosperity is guaranteed through unity based on equality, this can be considered as nothing less than their having obtained ownership of state power. As in any revolution, the question of state power has always been the basic issue in our revolution.

The acquisition of state power means the ownership of an instrument that enables one to change material conditions. On the other hand, the basic and key issue of the question of state power is not only its acquisition but the ability to retain that power. Therefore, for the working people to achieve political supremacy, it is necessary to ensure in the first place the existence of a material base and that the necessary zeal is created. The history of other revolutions and our own experience provide concrete evidence of this. For the working people to benefit from the fruits of their labor and to create a situation in which political supremacy prevails, there is no alternative to passing through a process of struggle that demands major sacrifices in various fields.

Our revolution has been able to reach its present higher stage because it was embraced and supported by the people who appreciated this historical reality. It is for this reason that a new chapter is beginning in the history of our revolution, which is marching toward its objective, firmly proving that the working people are the makers of history. Since the yardstick of our victory is the material and spiritual comfort of the working people, the victories we have achieved at various stages should be seen from the point of view of their contribution to the achievement of this objective. Although the victories we have achieved on various occasions and in various fields during our revolution have differed in scope and depth, it is not difficult to see that their performance is guaranteed, that they are stepping stones for additional achievements, and that they are closely linked and complementary. This is the objective base for our revolution's success at various stages and has helped it reach its present stage. As the acquisition of state power by the Ethiopian working people cannot be seen in terms of success or efforts made in one direction only, its historical and political benefits also cannot be seen in narrow terms.

The establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE] is not only the collective result of our victories achieved so far, but is a reliable instrument for the success of future stuggles in various directions. That is why it is correct to give due consideration to our accomplishments and other related issues which have had a direct bearing on the realization of this political objective.

Dear commission members. External and internal antirevolution forces supported by international reactionaries have repeatedly attacked us to nip our revolution in the bud, to violate our age-old independence, and to destroy our unity by taking advantage of the difficult situation in which our country found itself. We must not forget that our independence and territorial integrity were defended by repulsing these attacks and the revolution was protected through the gallant struggle of Ethiopia's working people. The activities carried out at various stages not only to overcome the problem of the very serious drought, which caused great damage to the lives and property of our compatriots, but also never to be affected in the same way again, would never have been successful in terms of their planning, implementation, and progress without the participation of the working people. It was the Ethiopian working people themselves who clearly understood the need to be organized to achieve the glorious objectives for which we stand. They have been accomplishing political, economic, and social tasks by organizing themselves into various mass organizations. It was the strength and support of the working people of Ethiopia, who clearly realized the importance of party leadership to achieve victory, which enabled the complex struggle of Ethiopian revolutionaries to be victorious. In general, it is clear to everyone that the working people of Ethiopia have shown in particular terms that they are the ones responsible for all our victories and that the enemy's temporary strength and their own temporary problems cannot distract them from their final objective.

The building of the people's political system started right from the day the feudal regime was overthrown. In the continuous activities carried out in various fields to give complete form and content to the new political system, the role of the working people was very important. The people's participation in this lengthy and complex process has undergone quantitative and qualitative changes. The working people's participation in the final preparations for establishing the PDRE has proved the maturity of their political development and is something that deserves the highest regard. The people's participation in the process of preparing the Constitution, the prime instrument for establishing the Republic and facilitating the people's struggle to achieve their objectives following the formation of the Republic, is the first and chief manifestation of this truth.

The efforts of Ethiopians who participated in the commission representing the working people to prepare the Constitution clearly reflected the feelings of the people. Through discussions held on the Constitution, favorable conditions were created to facilitate full understanding of the form and content of this document and to gather opinions to enrich the content. Therefore, the direct participation of the people had reached a higher stage. On the other hand, it was clearly seen that this fundamental legal document was held in high regard by the people and had a special place in their eyes. The preparation of a referendum to approve the draft constitution, which had been prepared with the extensive and direct participation of the people, was based on earlier accomplishments that confirmed the Ethiopian people are the owners of the revolution.

Dear members of the commission. Of the various practices in socialist countries and countries that have chosen the path of socialist development, the referendum process is a way of demonstrating the people's ownership of power in practical terms. As we all know, socialism is built through state power and is the struggle to transfer economic and social benefits from the minority to the majority.

Through our activity, we aim to perpetuate a state of common prosperity based on equality. This will be accomplished through the people's power and motivation. Although people's ownership and motivation can be seen from different angles, the main factor is their power to decide basic political issues. The referendum process is a political practice according to which the people directly exercise their democratic rights. Although there are several ways in which the working people's ownership of power can be manifested directly or indirectly in a people's political system, the holding of a referendum is held in very high regard. Issues presented for referendum are basic questions affecting the life of the society.

For this reason, a referendum should be held when the importance of an issue means that the voice of the people must be heard directly. The plan for a referendum to approve the Constitution according to which the PDRE is to be formed and governed was a historic task given special and high regard. It was appreciated that it was the correct way of ensuring in advance the people's support, which is the main guarantee for the implementation of the Constitution and laws based on it. We appreciated the importance of clearly showing that the source of the direct ownership of people's power, which would be fully realized in the government to be formed, is the will of the people and the legality of the Republic is also based on this.

Through their participation in various tasks during the revolutionary years, the people have proved that they are the force of the revolution, the main owners of its accomplishments, and the beneficiaries of the results. The draft constitution was presented for referendum and, under the leadership of this commission and with the great participation of the people, it achieved a high regard for the people's ability to make history.

Dear commission members. It should be recalled that the responsibility of obtaining the people's approval through the referendum process for the draft constitution, which was prepared by the constitution drafting commission and enriched by the people, was given to this commission. It is with great revolutionary spirit that I announce that our commission has accomplished its mission with satisfactory results. [applause] It should be recalled that during its first meeting, the congress of our commission formed various committees and issued directives on the implementation of the referendum. All necessary preparations were made to enable the working people to clearly understand the contribution of their questions and suggestions to enriching the contents of the draft constitution and changing the nature of its presentation, and to increase the conscious participation of the people in the referendum process by enabling them to understand the amended draft constitution.

In line with this, the final document prepared by the drafting commission and changes made to the draft through public opinion with explanations were made available to the people. Some 500,000 copies of the amended constitution were published by our commissions office, some 433,000 copies were published in our party organ and government papers, and more than 230,000 copies by mass organizations, bringing the total distribution to over a million. Before the people voted on the referendum, the need for people clearly to understand the changes made to the content and form of the draft constitution based on the questions and suggestions during the discussion and why the changes had been made was appreciated and at least 1 copy for every 40 voters was made available. In addition, the draft constitution was presented in various languages by the radio and television services.

Efforts have been made to organize discussion forums in rural and urban areas through temporary groups. By making the draft constitution available in libraries, displaying it on public notice boards and through other methods, everything possible has been done to enable the people to examine the document extensively. In addition, the document on changes made to the Constitution was translated into 14 languages and distributed to relevant areas. Discussions and educational programs were presented through the media and useful explanations were given on the referendum process and changes made to the draft constitution. By organizing seminars at various stages for the bodies entrusted by our commission's congress with implementing the changes, great efforts were made to acquire sufficient knowledge for its implementation.

One of the areas in which our backward stage of development is clearly seen is in the existing means of communication between village and district, district and province, province and region. Although glorious results were achieved in expanding communications through the efforts of the revolutionary government and the broad masses after the revolution, it is clear we have a long way to go in this field.

Great efforts have been made to ensure that these problems do not hinder the working people from benefitting from the fruits of the revolution and from participating as owners of the revolution and, in particular, to achieve complete participation by the people in the preparation of the draft constitution and the referendum. Unreserved efforts were made to create favorable conditions for the people in the border regions of our country to participate in the process. To enable Ethiopian nomads to exercise their rights, efforts were made to make preparations related to their movements.

In addition to directly distributing the amended draft constitution to the people, it was possible to distribute materials prepared in line with our country's capabilities and necessary for the implementation of the referendum to some 5,000 polling stations established in border areas, including our islands. Sturdy ballot boxes, voting cards and stamps — prepared in such a way that even illiterate compatriots could understand them easily — files which could be used in future, pictorial publications and other things were prepared and distributed in good time to every station by plane, helicopter, vehicle, train, boat, or animal as needed.

In general, although the logistics were not simple, many tons of materials were distributed efficiently. Preparations for the implementation of the referendum were not only satisfactory and coordinated, but have also shown the attention given to the whole practice, helping us clearly understand the people's willingness and revolutionary spirit to exercise their rights. The preparation and implementation of the referendum clearly indicates the total equality of citizens that we aim to achieve completely. Efforts made to organize polling stations according to the area concerned, to create favorable conditions for efficient implementation of the process and support for the implementing bodies from the people of the areas in general should be held in high regard. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that our revolution has created a favorable situation for all public activities. The holding of the referendum, which took place everywhere — from tents and under trees to educational institutions, public halls, and various government and mass organization institutions — is additional evidence of this.

The steps taken according to the capacity of various areas to put into practice the directives for implementing the referendum have shown the working peoples' desire to take advantage of their rights. The efforts made to conduct the voting in line with the directives in an efficient manner have demonstrated the creativity of the areas involved. These are concrete demonstrations that the working people have never failed to undertake a task with complete dedication, as long as it contributes to the progress of the revolution and to safeguarding their rights.

Dear members of the commission. As has been shown on various occasions, the broad and direct participation of the working people in the preparation of the Constitution and the procedure for approving it is the highest expression of their democratic rights, which they have been exercising in different ways since the birth of the revolution. The creation of forums and occasions for public participation are a reliable basis for our continuing activities to increase the people's understanding, and have contributed greatly to enabling them to express in practical terms their love for their country's unity and freedom and conscious commitment to the revolution. All the victories we attained in various spheres should not be considered as goals in themselves, but as instruments in laying the foundations for achieving our ultimate goals. The preparation of the Constitution and the implementation of the referendum should not be considered out of context. Consequently, as a result of efforts to eliminate illiteracy, the people have the effective means properly to exercise the rights they have assumed and to make decisions in the affairs of their country. This has been clearly reflected in the preparation of the draft constitution and the implementation of the referendum.

Efforts to dissuade the peasantry from living in dispersed settlements and to create conditions enabling them to work collectively for mutual economic and social progress have clearly made a contribution toward the efficient and effective implementation of political activities and have strengthened public participation. Leaving aside the economic and social benefits of regrouping people into villages, the advantage of using materials in a coordinated manner on various occasions, and of saving the time spent going from place to place and such like has been proven beyond doubt.

Dear members of the commission, it should be recalled that all genuine citizens were satisfied with the high level of participation by the people during the discussions held on the draft constitution. The public participation at that time, which is unparalleled in our history, and the great political feeling it engendered has once again demonstrated that this is a reliable force that enables us to march forward to our ultimate goals and has inspired revolutionaries to further struggle. When the draft constitution was presented for public discussion, efforts were made to adhere to democratic principles, to consider and respect each and every question and suggestion so that a correct understanding of the document could be obtained.

These efforts and, in general, the trust in the people our party and revolutionary government showed on this and other occasions made a great contribution to the increased participation in the referendum and the successful way in which it was conducted.

A large number of people took part in the discussion forums. The discussions were satisfactory and were conducted in a disciplined manner with a high degree of participation. Moreover, participation in the implementation of the referendum was even greater than in the discussions.

The basic issues I mentioned earlier and our learning from experience speeded up the process thanks to timely measures taken at various levels. Since the number of people who turned out to register for the referendum was higher than expected, many kebele [urban dwellers and peasants associations] were obliged to set up additional polling stations. After registration and other necessary advance preparations, the referendum was conducted with a high degree of participation. The people who were in the kebeles before voting began at 0600 were so disciplined that they made the process much more efficient so it was possible to finish before the time limit set for the purpose.

Dear members of the commission, in the polling stations set up in the towns and rural areas and in the various sections of our Revolutionary Armed Forces to conduct the referendum, the number of people aged 18 and above who registered was 14,570,011. This exceeded by 26 percent the number of people who participated in the discussions conducted throughout the country, who numbered 11,668,024. This increase is a clear manifestation of the democratic nature of the discussions which created favorable conditions for the referendum.

Of those registered to participate in the referendum, 14,035,718 or 96 percent voted. Of this, 81 percent have approved the draft constitution. [applause] Among those who voted in the various parts of country, 18 percent voted against. One percent did not use their voting cards properly and therefore the cards were spoiled.

According to the proclamation issued by the referendum commission, 305/1986, Article 33, Subarticle I, a yes vote of 51 percent of those who voted in the referendum would have been adequate. However, 81 percent of Ethiopians who voted have approved the draft constitution and this shows that the document has won the support of the majority of the Ethiopian people. [applause] Therefore, I congratulate you with great pleasure and revolutionary fervor that the draft constitution of the Ethiopian Democratic Republic has been approved. [lengthy applause]

I congratulate each and every one of us that the Ethiopian people have reached the stage of being able to administer themselves through a constitution prepared through direct participation and approved by their own decision.

Dear members of the commission, the Constitution of the PDRE, which was approved through the direct participation and support of the working people, is a great document in which the supremacy of the working people has been stated and from which the laws which will be instrumental for putting measures into practice will emanate.

All the government organs mentioned in the Constitution will safeguard the supremacy of the working people, ensure their progress, coordinate and supplement the struggle being waged, and, through their responsibilities, ensure the ownership of power of the working people in line with the Constitution. The constitutional rights, freedoms, and duties of citizens are proclaimed on the basis of the ownership of power of the working people. In general, the Constitution of the PDRE is a document that records the victories we have achieved through our revolution and guides our struggle for reconstruction on this basis. The Constitution is not only a legal instrument to enable us to establish the Republic, which is our immediate plan, but it is also a legal document that will facilitate all activities of government, mass organizations, and citizens in the cause of equality, justice, and progress. In addition, the Constitution will be the legal basis for the attainment of our goals and will lay the foundations of the working relations of institutions. It will be also an instrument [word indistinct] in our struggle to establish socialist law [words indistinct]. The Constitution is held in high regard and has been prepared with the participation of the Ethiopian people, approved by the people's own vote, and taken to a stage where it can be implemented. It is our belief that the members of the commission and all compatriots who participated in the preparation of the Constitution and implementation of the referendum in various ways should be very satisfied with the results.

Dear members of the commission. A great deal of information has been gathered in the process of preparing the Constitution and implementing the referendum. Highly accurate data which can be used as a source for future study and analysis has been collected.

The information gathered will make a contribution to our future activities. Our clear realization of the benefits of being organized during the revolution years, and the efforts we made and the victories we achieved in forming our party, forming and strengthening mass organizations, and improving the structure and operation of government organs, clearly indicate that a people that relies on organized forces and has a glorious objective is bound to win. The great efforts of organs of our commission, formed at various stages and starting from the center, the support and leadership of our party, and the cooperation of government organs and mass organizations have made a very important contribution to the satisfactory result achieved. The correct and uniform implementation of our commission's directives at polling stations established from major towns to border areas is the result of our being organized, and it has confirmed to us that the struggles we waged and the sacrifices we have to organize ourselves were not in vain.

The preparation of the Constitution and its approval by referendum has revealed many facts, and it is a great accomplishment added to the victories of our revolution, and will encourage us to push firmly forward with our objective. However, I want to stress again that it should not be regarded as a goal in itself. That we are on the eve of the implementation of the Constitution does not mean that we have rid ourselves of reactionaries and antirevolutionary forces who arm themselves and intensify their propaganda campaign to block our development process, nor does it mean that the people have rid themselves of backwardness. Even though we are satisfied with the results we have achieved, we cannot now fold our arms and sit down.

On the contrary, it will encourage us to use the Constitution as a tool and continue with our multistage struggle with more unity than ever, with a stronger spirit of work and struggle, and with socialist determination and an efficient working system, and move forward with new spirit. Therefore, let us work diligently to rid our country of backwardness and our people of poverty, and to build a system in which we [word indistinct] together. Let us expedite our progress in unity. We shall establish the PDRE! The heroic Ethiopian people will always win. Thank you. [lengthy applause]

KENYA

XINHUA Official Urged To Help Dispel Propaganda

EA262348 Nairobi KNA in English 1240 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Nairobi, 26 Feb — An assistant minister for information and broadcasting, Mr Eric Khasakhala, today urged the *Xinhua News Agency* to assist Kenya in dispelling the propaganda being leveled against her by some foreign medium [singular as received]. Mr Khasakhala noted that it was possible for XINHUA to do this because it was the largest news agency in China and in the Third World and also one of the leading world wide news agencies. He told them that they did not need to praise Kenya where she went wrong but they would see for themselves how well Kenya was managing her affairs and what the foreign medium chose to report. Minister Khasakhala noted that it was surprising that this country was involved in so many development activities which were deliberately overlooked, thus leaving us wondering as to what intentions these people had when they chose to give this country a bad image abroad.

Mr Khasakhala was speaking in his office where he received the visiting Chinese deputy minister for information, Mr Pang Bingan [title as received], and other senior officials from *Xinhua News Agency* in his office. He advised them to link up with the *Kenya News Agency* to enable them to know what was going on in Kenya's 41 districts especially in relation to the district focus for rural development.

Speaking during the occasion, Mr Bingan noted that he was aware of the misinformation about Kenya. He admitted that he had had a different image about this country before he came here and was actually surprised that Kenya was not what he had imagined. Said he: "Kenya can be described as a very beautiful house with nice rooms and toilets, but in this case, the beautiful rooms are overlooked and only the toilets are talked about." Mr Bingan hailed the warm ties between the two countries and pledged to do everything possible to ensure that correct information is given about her.

Also present during the occasion was the director of information, Mr Shadrack Musandu and Nairobi's provincial information officer, Mr Odhiambo Okite.

SOMALIA

Djibouti President Arrives in Mogadishu

Barre Hosts Reception

EA260426 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
0330 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] SDR President Challe Muhammad Siad Barre hosted a dinner last night for [Djibouti President] Mr Gouled Hassan and his delegation who are on an official visit to Somalia at Villa Somalia. Also present were Challe Muhammad Ali Samantar, first vice president and prime minister; Challe Husayn Kulmiye Afrah, second vice president and second prime minister; other members of the SRSP Central Committee; Political Committee; ministers; and other senior government officials. After the dinner, the two presidents exchanged speeches on strengthening the fraternal relations between Somalia and Djibouti and areas of priority.

Challe Muhammad Siad Barre said in his speech that the Government and people of Somalia are very gratified by the visit of President Gouled and his delegation. The warm welcome accorded them was a sincere one, enriched by love and brotherhood. He said that President Hassan and his delegation are not strangers in the SDR, but were in their second country. He also mentioned the warm welcome accorded to him when he visited Djibouti in June 1986. This kind of visit will strengthen the cooperation and love between the two peoples and provide mutual cooperation, he said.

Challe Siad specifically mentioned the importance of speeding the plan for the road connecting Somalia and Djibouti. He said this will promote bilateral trade, communication, and cultural exchange. He also mentioned the promotion of cooperation in civil aviation.

Mr Gouled Hassan said in his speech that he and his delegation are not strangers in Somalia, and are very pleased with the warm welcome accorded them by the Government and people of Somalia. He thanked the people and government of Somalia for the unforgetable part they played in the Djibouti peoples' independence struggle. He said that the exchange of visits by the leaders of the two countries is in the interests of the two peoples and of the exchange of experience. He said that the construction of the road is in the interests of the two peoples. He greeted and thanked the Somali people and wished them prosperity.

Talks With Barre Begin

EA260430 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1400 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Official talks on further strengthening the brotherly fraternal relations and cooperation between the Republic of Djibouti and Somalia started in a fraternal and respectful atmosphere today at 0930 at the People's Hall in Mogadishu. The SDR was represented by SDR President Challe Muhammad Siad Barre; Challe Muhammad Ali Samantar, first vice-president and prime minister; Challe Husayn Kulmiye Afrah, second vice-president and second prime minister; and other members of the SRSP Central Political Committee, ministers and other government officials. The Djibouti side was represented by Mr Gouled Hassan, president of the Republic of Djibouti; Mr Bahdon Farah Moumin, Djibouti foreign minister; Ali Muhammad Ramad, chairman of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee; and the rest of the delegation.

SDR President Challe Muhammad Siad Barre delivered a short opening speech once again welcoming President Hassan and his delegation to Somalia. He said the two countries and peoples share a close and multifaceted cooperation that requires joint action to realize the interests of the two brotherly peoples.

Mr Gouled Aptidon Hassan, president of the Republic of Djibouti, expressed gratitude for the warm welcome, and said that in line with the close and fraternal cooperation between Somalia and Djibouti, it is necessary to work hard in the interests of the two fraternal countries and peoples.

An ad hoc committee from the two countries led by the foreign ministers of Somalia and Djibouti, Dr Abd al-Rahman Jama Barre and Mr Bahdon Farah Moumin, respectively, was appointed with the responsibility of pursuing the agendas of the talks and tabling resolutions beneficial to the two peoples.

The two presidents were warmly welcomed to the People's Hall by public organizations and the flower of revolutionary youth who sang songs on the deep-rooted and close relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples. [Passage omitted]

Joint Communique Issued

EA262257 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1115 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpts] The Governments of the SDR and the Republic of Djibouti issued a joint communique today at the end of the 3-day state visit to the SDR by the president of the Republic of Djibouti, Gouled Aptidon Hassan, and his high-level delegation, on the talks between the two leaders and their officials on relations between the two fraternal states. The talks between

Challe Muhammad Siad Barre and Gouled Aptidon Hassan centered on strengthening bilateral relations, on regional and internal issues, Arab affairs, Africa, and international relations. The two sides concurred on all matters discussed. The talks were held in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, indicative of the strong ties between the two countries and peoples. The communique, which was read at the end of the talks by SDR Foreign Minister 'Abdurahman Jama Barre, said the two sides had agreed on the following seven issues:

1. Formation of a subcommittee to resolve problems affecting the two countries' border areas;

2. An agreement on immigration;

3. Cooperation in livestock management;

4. Technical and agricultural research cooperation;

5. Harbors and sea communications;

6. Air communications; and

7. Sports.

The presidents said people under colonial rule were entitled to self-determination in accordance with the Charters of the United Nations, the OAU, the ICO, and the Arab League. They called for a peaceful solution to the age-old problem of the Horn of Africa, which, they said, should be solved by means of dialogue as provided for by the UN and OAU Charters. [passage omitted]

The two presidents called for international support for the forthcoming meeting of the intergovernmental authority on drought and development to be held in Djibouti in March. The two presidents called for greater bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, culture, technology, and other related fields.

The communique said the two sides had agreed on the promotion of bilateral infrastructures, with special reference to the Djibouti-Berbera Road, the construction of which should be expedited. They also said the citizens of the two countries should be encouraged to invest in the exploitation of mineral resources. [passage omitted]

Hassan Discusses Trip, Departs

EA262256 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1115 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Mr Gouled Aptidon Hassan, president of the Republic of Djibouti and his high-level delegation today departed from Mogadishu airport after completing their official visit to the SDR. [passage omitted] At the VIP lounge at Mogadishu airport Mr Gouled Aptidon Hassan thanked the government and people of Somalia for the warm welcome accorded to them which will be remembered by the people of Djibouti.

When asked about his meeting with the SDR president, he said they discussed many issues concerning the interests of the two countries and international affairs. He disclosed that both sides shared the same views and analysed the issues sincerely. On the Horn of Africa he said it is important for the dialogue that started last year in Djibouti to be continued. He specifically stated the need for lasting peace in the Horn of Africa, which is the foundation for development and cooperation in the countries of the region.

Answering a question on the African refugee problem, he said that this problem is prevalent in many parts of the world. The solution is not to merely return the refugees, but there must be guarantees for them to be repatriated to their homes and to live there in freedom. [Passage omitted]

UGANDA

Museveni on Economic Saboteurs, Rebel Losses

EA261748 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpt] President Yoweri Museveni has said that he is going to invoke the powers of the detention act in dealing with people who are sabotaging the Uganda economy and those who malice [as heard] the National Resistance Army, NRA. Addressing a press conference at State House yesterday, the president said that until the NRC [National Resistance Council] legislates a new law for economic saboteurs like the case of a train being driven into a wagon ferry at Jinja, as well as those who malign the NRA which has fought to bring peace to Uganda, will be dealt with by invoking the detention act which the president said he has not used before. [sentence as heard]

The president also told the news conference that the local press in Uganda as well as the foreign media have distorted the true picture of the situation in northern Uganda where the NRA is fighting the rebels. Mr Museveni told the journalists that there is no town of Uganda that has been overrun by bandits since the conflict with rebels started last year. He informed them that some towns had been attacked, but all these attacks by the rebels have been repulsed with heavy casualties on the side of the attackers.

The president said that in a period of 1 and 1/2 weeks, a total of 118 bandits in the north have been killed by the NRA. In all these engagements, Mr Museveni went on, there have been no weapons captured from the NRA but the rebels have lost men and weapons to the NRA. The president said that at Puranga bridge, 94 bodies of bandits were left behind, and in Soroti area 58 were killed, 60 captured, and a number of arms were also taken by the NRA. The rest of the bandits were repulsed.

President Museveni also said that since Christmas last year up to now, a total of 1,184 rebels have been killed and over 1,000 weapons captured. The president said that these decimated numbers of rebels are contrary to local newspaper reports that the number of rebels is increasing. He added that the rebels are not at all growing in strength but are actually being decimated in terms of power weaponary and morale.

Mr Museveni also said that some newspapers write with their political masters interest in mind and thus allege that when the NRA troops are redeployed, that is taken as evacuation. He therefore made it clear that the occasional redeployment by the NRA in the north is not evacuation.

Earlier, President Yoweri Museveni said that the NRM government is not condoning the violation of human rights in northern Uganda where NRA troops are fighting rebels. Contrary to allegations of human rights abuse in the area, the troops stationed there are working strictly in accordance with the operational code of conduct which governs the behaviour of soldiers when fighting.

Addressing a meeting of members of the Uganda Law Society at the international conference center, Mr Museveni said that to ensure there is no violation of human rights by soldiers, a liaison officer had been established in all brigades to record complaints from the public regarding the behavior of soldiers in the north. The president stressed that any soldier who breaks that code of conduct is promptly punished whenever reported. Mr Museveni stressed that the rebels in northern Uganda have no justification to fight because their objective is to escape from legal punishment for the crimes they committed against the people of Uganda.

He went on to say that those rebels are driven into fighting with the hope that once in power, they would be saved from being punished for their past political crimes. He went on to say that there cannot be a guarantee of a bright future if past political crimes are not punished.

The president said that the NRM government is not going to be liberal to the extent of letting people who committed crimes escape from justice. He observed that the rebels have no justifiable political objectives to be accepted because of their past criminal records. The president added that since the rebels have chosen to take up arms against the government instead of surrendering, the NRM will deal with them in a language those rebels have chosen.

Addressing himself to aspects of Ugandan laws, President Museveni noted that they should be reformed to do away with all the injustices that the past regimes of Obote, Amin, and the Okellos thrived on and manipulated Ugandans on tribal and religious grounds. [passage omitted]

CHAD

President Habre Interviewed on Clash With Libya

AB262058 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Interview with Chadian President Hissein Habre by *(?ACP-CEE)* magazine — date and place not given]

[Summary from poor reception][Begin recording][Reporter] Mr President, following the latest defections, what is the situation like?

[Habre] In fact, the situation is favorable in certain regards and difficult in another regard. We are making progress in the national reconciliation process. "I can tell you that thanks to the latest development in the north of our country, great strides have been made." I can tell you that on this front, the most important objective has been achieved and "henceforth, Chadians will come together to face the external invader." Nonetheless, the national and reconciliation process must be maintained and consolidated.

We have always told our brothers in the opposition that "the principal danger facing Chad is not personal bickering but the great danger hanging over its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Now, they have taken a new position, and are united against the invader.

[Reporter] How about a national reconciliation meeting with those in the opposition?

[Habre] In fact, "there are no more important opposition groups" in exile. "There are only a few isolated elements in the service of Libya. But you will easily understand that in every nation, there are always some lost sons here and there." We want to strengthen the victories we have just achieved. Young nations are obviously always fragile. They face constant threats. "So we must not rest on our laurels"; on the contrary, "we must remain vigilant and work to consolidate national unity further."

[Reporter] "How do you envisage the reconquest of all your territories, including the Aozou Strip?"

[Habre] "That is our principal, constant, and first objective." What you have just said is a cruel fact; "that is, Libya has been occupying more than 500,000 square km of our territory" and is consolidating its presence there. In the north, the people are also fighting the occupying forces. Confronted with this situation, the Libyans have been firing at anything that moves, poisoning wells, dropping napalm bombs. So Libya wants to annex Chad in a cruel way and is committing genocide. In the face of this situation, the Chadians have come together.

[Reporter] You will probably continue to divert considerable resources to the war efforts although Chad is a Sahelian country confronted with the problem of desert encroachment. Can you compare the war effort and the development effort?

[Habre] We have development programs to implement in the economic and social fields. But when part of a country is occupied, when its independence is jeopardized and its freedom flouted, it must consider this a question of survival. So, "for us now, the priority is given to war." A considerable part of our resources will be devoted to our war effort. This is natural.

[Reporter] Mr President, after restoring peace, Chadians will devote all their efforts and energies to building their future. Have you taken stock of all that the war has cost you both in terms of human and material resources?

[Habre] The consequences of war are considerable. "Right now we have not yet attained the economic and social level we were at in 1973." But I can say that the activities have resumed. With the advent of peace, we will build our economy.

[Reporter] "Mr President, the fight against desert encroachment is one of your priorities; but this is made difficult not only by the war, but also by the vast area of the country, and the low density of the population." What do you plan to do?

[Habre] In fact, our country faces several problems: the distance from the sea, the drought, and so on. But we rely very heavily on agriculture. Cotton now represents our primary source of revenue. One of our goals now is to diversify our agricultural production.

[Reporter] You have spoken of agriculture; you have spoken of oil resources.

[Habre] We have a rich soil and a hardworking people, who have shown their tenacity. We think that our future will be bright after the establishment of peace. [end recording]

Habre: Libya Planning Attacks in Sudan, Chad

LD271129 Paris Domestic Service in French
1000 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Al-Qadhdhafi is preparing to launch three attacks, two in northern Chad and one in Sudan. This is claimed by Chad President Hissein Habre in an interview given to *Le Quotidien de Paris*. The first is aimed at recapturing Fada; the second, to take control of the Tibesti area; and the third will be in western Darfur, Sudan.

GABON

Bongo Returns From Foreign Visits 26 February

AB261400 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1230 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] After 15 days outside the country, President Omar Bongo of Gabon returned to Libreville this morning. The Gabonese leader was on a private visit to France and Hong Kong. While in China he was on an official visit during which only economic issues were discussed.

Upon his arrival at Libreville airport, Omar Bongo did not disclose to the press the amounts of the financial aid granted his country by France and China.

BURKINA FASO

Frenchmen, Malians Honored for Peace Efforts

AB260910 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Today, Burkina thanked all those who contributed to restoring peace with Mali. Malians, Frenchmen, and Burkinabe were decorated at the presidential palace late this morning.

On the Malian side were Abdourahmane Maiga and Yaya Diarra. The French side consisted of Jean-Pierre Cott and Jean Gateau. The Burkinabe team that prepared and presented our dossier to the Hague International Court of Justice was also honored. [passage omitted]

GHANA

Commentary on U.S., UK Veto of RSA Sanctions

AB262143 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 26 Feb 87

[William Agbenyegah commentary]

[Text] When the United States and Britain vetoed a Security Council resolution calling for worldwide mandatory sanctions against South Africa, they once again demonstrated to the world the extent to which they are prepared to go in order to perpetuate the mass killings and the inhuman treatment of blacks in South Africa. It is on record that the United States, Britain, and their allies always insist that they want a peaceful settlement to the issue of apartheid. It is with regard to this that one hails very vividly the recent withdrawals of some giant Western multinational companies from South Africa.

The question that beats many political analysts is what other peaceful means the United States and Britain envisage as the best for abolishing apartheid? The whole world knows that it is the heavy investments by Western capitalist countries and their multinationals in South Africa that keep apartheid viable. In the fields of arms, electronics, fuel, nuclear technology, and a host of others, one can see these firms (?strengthen) investments in South Africa. Thus strengthened, the regime is always prepared to crush any black opposition ruthlessly.

The many atrocities against the blacks in the Bantustan make the argument that sanctions will hurt the blacks most nothing but hypocritical. We need to remind these so-called champions of human rights that poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, and wars have been the lot of blacks in South Africa. Malnutrition alone disables millions of blacks, while millions more are crippled by the effects of death, diseases, and other forms of brutality. What could be worse for millions who have lost their jobs and are forced into (?by homelands), with nothing to live on?

In the light of these, it should be obvious [words indistinct] to lose if worldwide mandatory sanctions are imposed on this atrocious regime to end it once and for all. It should be obvious why despite hundreds of human rights organizations in their countries, they continue to connive at such injustices at this present level of civilization by putting obstacles in the application of universal mandatory sanctions without shame. By their actions, United States and Britain should be reminded that they are encouraging further violence, and not the ANC or SWAPO.

To avoid the threat to peace in southern Africa, [words indistinct] assistance must must be given to the struggle of the peoples in southern Africa and apartheid must be isolated at the international level. The escalation of the acts of aggression being committed against sovereign states, maneuvers of South Africa to continue its illegal rule in Namibia, call for resolute action to combat it. And this means the whole world must be seen to be working in a concerted action.

LIBERIA

Ruling NDPL Criticizes Kennedy Aid Cut Position

AB262147 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The National Democratic Party of Liberia, NDPL, has reacted sharply to a recent statement by U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy in which he called for a halt to all U.S. economic aid to Liberia. According to a release from the party's headquarters quoted by the *Liberian News Agency*, the NDPL acting chairman, Miatta A. Sherman, said it was unfortunate that the American senator and his staff are unfamiliar with West Africa, particularly Liberia, to the extent that they rely on misinformation about events in Liberia. She said it was regrettable that while those of us residing in Liberia seek to bring about positive sociopolitical and economic development, forces outside the country in self-imposed exile were actively engaged in destroying the very country they pretend to love.

Mrs Sherman then urged Senator Kennedy to reassess his information as well as his informants, adding that like any good democrat, Senator Kennedy must acknowledge that the will of the Liberian people must prevail. The NDPL advocates the right of the Liberian people to participate in decisions which affect them, particularly those who have demonstrated their commitment and affection while remaining in Liberia, Mrs Sherman was quoted as saying.

The NDPL acting chairman then assured the party's willingness to engage in objective discussions with Mr Kennedy and his assistants with the hope that all future statements about Liberia will be constructive rather than destructive.

NIGER

Tahoua Prefect Concludes Visit to Nigerian State

AB261649 Niamey Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The prefect of Tahoua Province, Lieutenant Colonel Tandja Mamadou, has just concluded a 24-hour visit to Sokoto in Nigeria. The visit fell within the framework of strengthening the bonds of good-neighborliness between our two countries. The two delegations held a working session. Moussa Iddrissa tells us what was discussed at the working session.

[Iddrissa] Security, trade and transportation, environmental protection, animal and human health, and the exchange of cultural and sporting activities were the principal points discussed at length.

First of all, concerning security and trade and transportation, the two delegations highlighted the lack of respect for free movement of persons and property across the common border; the insufficiency of repressive measures against wrongdoers in some border villages; the problems of transporation in the two regions; the escape of some drivers after their involvement in accidents; and the dispute between animal rearers and farmers.

Concerning the third item on the agenda, the two officials reaffirmed their common willingness to coordinate their efforts to combat natural disasters — such as the invasion of locusts, birds, and pests — environmental degradation, and epidemics threatening wildlife and humans.

Regarding cultural and sporting activities, the Tahoua and Sokoto delegations agreed on the need to include them in regional exchanges because they constitute an important element for interaction and for strengthening bonds of brotherhood between our two peoples. It is within this framework that the Niger side has been invited to attend the animal fishermen's festival in Argungu in March.

It is also worth mentioning that during this meeting, the two delegations spoke about the need to create a joint interregional committee that will periodically meet to discuss their common problems. This organ will be established very soon after studies of the practical means for its establishment are completed.

But before the official opening of the meeting, Lt Col Tandja Mamadou and the governor of Sokoto spoke to stress the long-standing relations between the peoples of Niger and Nigeria — two peoples who are linked by history and geography. Although colonization, which our two countries endured, tried to divide us, our peoples, both officials stressed, managed to preserve the bonds of brotherhood that unite them. Hard times and disasters, which disrupted our economies, Lt Col Tandja Mamadou added, somehow disrupted these good relations, but the recent visit of the Nigerian head of state to our country afforded our two heads of state the opportunity to find ways to restore these good relations, which must continue to be sustained from the grass roots. This grass root support, Prefect Tandja Mamadou pointed out, is one the best means to bring peace to the people living at the border areas, and encourage them to respect the persons and property that cross our common border.

At the conclusion of his visit to Nigeria, the prefect of the Tahoua Province invited the Sokoto governor to a similar meeting in Tahoua. The invitation was accepted; the date will be fixed later.

It should be noted that just before his departure, Lt Col Tandja Mamadou witnessed the opening session of an international workshop on Hausa terminology in relation to the general history of Africa, organized by UNESCO at the University of Sokoto.

NIGERIA

Almost 321 Illegal Libyan Immigrants Repatriated

AB261536 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] About 321 illegal immigrants from Libya have so far been repatriated by the Federal Government within the past 4 months. A Radio Nigeria correspondent understands that the action was completed at the weekend with the repatriation of 80 Libyans. The Libyan aliens were airlifted back home. Our correspondent also understands that the Federal Government [words indisitnct] for the repatriation of the illegal immigrants, most of whom entered the country through Chad.

Customs, Excise Tariff Changes Announced

AB261050 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The Federal Government has announced marginal corrections and adjustments of its customs and excise tariffs. The amendments were announced this evening by the minister of industries, retired Lieutenant General Alani Akinrinade. Correspondent Chika Emerewa has the details:

[Begin recording] [Emerewa] Twenty-four categories were affected in the amendment. Frozen fish caught and landed by Nigerian-owned vessels will now attract duties of 10 kobo per kilogram, while others will be charged 15 kobo. Duties on wire balls, rods [words indistinct] and sections of aluminum and aluminum wire have been increased from 10 to 15 percent. In order to protect the local industries, the duty on batteries has gone up to 40 percent while its raw materials were not adjusted (?with that).

Corrugated iron sheets and galvanized sheets have also had their duties raised from 15 to 20 percent.

The motor industry was also affected as follows: Passenger cars, including station wagons and [word indistinct] cars not exceeding 1600 cc's: Kaduna, 10 percent; Lagos, 15; not exceeding 1800 cc's: Kaduna, 15 percent; and Lagos, 20 percent; not exceeding 2,000 cc's: Kaduna, 20 percent; Lagos, 25 percent; not exceeding 2400 cc's: Kaduna, 15 percent; Lagos 25 percent [figures as heard]; exceeding 2400 cc's: Kaduna 180 percent; Lagos 185.

Motor vehicle tires, 30 percent; agricultural equipment, 5; and the others 10 percent, while natural rubber was pushed up from 20 to 30 percent. Import duty on detergents and soaps was increased to 50 percent and [word indistinct] oil, 30 percent.

Petroleum jelly had its import duty reduced to 15 percent, while excise duties on cosmetics and liquid perfumes were also reduced from 20 to 15.

Duty on [words indistinct] was reduced to 5 percent under the general constructional wares, while excise duty on paints has been removed to bring down prices. Duty on synthetic yarns has been increased to 60 percent and cotton yarns, 80. Excise duties on [words indistinct] have been removed, while duties on custard powder and starch have gone up to 60 percent.

Electric [words indistinct] lamps components: 10 percent; others, 6. [Passage indistinct] Ibadan and Enugu, 2.5 percent; Kaduna, Kano, and Bauchi, 2.5 percent. Excise duty on [word indistinct] have been removed. Other items, which include [words indistinct], matches, glues and abrasives, margarine, imitation lard and other edible fats, boxes and bags and other containers of [words indistinct], paper and paper bags, while the importation of carpets, rugs, and moquettes have been placed on the prohibition list.

Lt Gen Alani Akinrinade explained the action of the government and what is expected of it:

[Begin Akinrinade recording][Passage indistinct][end recording]

[Emerewa] The measure will take effect from tomorrow, 26 February 1987.

ANGOLA

Border Guard Officer Warns of RSA Offensive

MB261251 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Captain Zeferino Mongo, commander of Cunene Province's border guard troops, recently told ANGOP that the racist South African Army is about to launch yet another major offensive against our country. The officer also said that South African aggression against Angola is presently divided into two fronts: The first involves weapons and logistical equipment support for the UNITA puppets; and the second seeks to spread criminal actions to destroy the Angolan revolution. Racist South African's support for UNITA seeks to increase the number of criminal actions against defenseless people and to intensify the destruction of infrastructures. Thus, its false pretext of pursuing SWAPO combatants inside Angolan territory does not wash, Captain Zeferino Mongo stated.

UNITA Reportedly Kills Two Priests in Huambo

MB262100 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Two Catholic priests of Huambo archdiocese died the day before yesterday, victims of treachery by the UNITA puppet group in Huambo Province. The priests, Armindo Castelo, an Angolan national, and Nicholaus Letare, from the Netherlands, were travelling in vehicles belonging to their archdiocese when UNITA ambushed them between Cachumbo and (Chicala-Cha Luango) in Huambo.

This act once again reveals the murderous character of the UNITA gangsters, who claim to defend the Angolan people. Rather than directly confronting the glorious FAPLA, the UNITA bandits resort to plundering and murdering honest and peaceful citizens.

Official Accuses Religious Sect of Subversion

MB261814 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Comrade Juliao Mateus Paulo Dino Matross, member of the Political Bureau and first secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Luanda Provincial Committee, chaired a meeting to clarify the events of 15 February in Terra Nova ward, which were caused by a religious group of the Tocoista sect known as: 18 Classes and 16 Tribes.

[Begin Matross recording] The denomination known as 18 Classes and 16 Tribes of Cristovao Tavares promoted false propaganda, stating that freedom of conscience is not respected in the People's Republic of Angola. In doing so he tried to create confusion and division among the people. Consequently, he undermined national unity to achieve his ambitious and reactionary objectives. The MPLA-Labor Party and the Angolan Government struggle to defend the most profound interests of the people as a whole, to preserve national unity, the unity of all the compatriots, and to construct a new society, where the exploitation of man by man will no longer exist. It is essential that we carry this through with the participation of both believers and nonbelievers, that is, of all the Angolan people from Cabinda to Cunene.

Article 25 of the Constitution states, quote: The freedom of conscience and belief shall be inviolable; The People's Republic of Angola recognizes the equality of all denominations and guarantees their exercise those beliefs in accordance with public order and national interest, unquote.

Cristovao Tavares and other leaders of the divisionist and antipatriotic group known as 18 Classes and 16 Tribes, belonging to the religious sect also known as Tocoista, operate on the basis of tribalism and take advantage of the religious alienation of some followers of the Tocoista church. Accordingly, they used cult practices to combat the policy outlined by the MPLA-Labor Party and the revolution, thus provoking sorrow and grief among our people. They forget that in Angola blood is shed daily as a result of the war mongering actions of racist South Africa and the UNITA puppet gangs who assasinate defenseless women, elderly people, and children, and destroy economic objectives necessary for the economic reconstruction of our country and the improvement of the standard of living of the Angolan people. In order to realize their ambitious and reactionary designs, Cristovao Tavares and his disciples have always manipulated the innocent believers to revolt against the state, the people, and Angolan revolution.

The use of religious creeds as a cloak to attack the revolution is an attempt to cause a political confrontation with the established power in the People's Republic of Angola and to undermine the efforts of (?Angolan) citizens in the struggle for peace, tranquility, and the construction of a new life. With this action, this group has lost its rights and legitimacy as a religious sect. Its ringleaders are now considered criminals.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that the beliefs of our party are well known. We do not confuse those responsible for this subversive action with the vast majority of the people. Therefore, the reponsibility will be attributed especially to those who were the moral and material authors and who (?influenced) these believers to attack the prison and thus the state. This provocative and subversive action, which was designed to destabilize public order, is a challenge to the constituted authority, and therefore should deserve only the condemnation of all our people. The Angolan state cannot tolerate the fact that under the cloak of religion, certain elements disrupt public order, and that people who are loyal to the revolutionary process should be allowed to die because of them.

In view of this situation we appeal to all the party members, party youth, grass roots organizations, and to the people as a whole, to strengthen popular vigilance by exposing these extremist and divisionist practices, and illicit activities which serve the enemies of the Angolan people. The honest believer, the worker and patriot is also a combatant for the reconstruction of the new society. They struggle for the strengthening of national unity, peace, tranquility and for the social well-being of all men. The struggle continues! Victory is certain! [end recording]

MOZAMBIQUE

'Big' Price Hikes for Basic Foodstuffs Announced

MB261707 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The Mozambican Government has announced big increases in prices to be paid to farmers for maize, rice, and 10 other food crops. Increases have also been announced in the retail prices of maize flour, rice and 10 other items, but consumers will be shielded by heavy government subsidies. Thus, farmers will receive 40 meticals per kilo for maize instead of the previous (?13) meticals. but a Maputo shopper will pay only 25 meticals for a kilo of maize flour, instead of the old retail price of 13.5 meticals.

The producer price for rice is up from 16 meticals a kilo to 48 meticals, while rice in city shops goes up from 13.5 to 23 meticals a kilo. These retail prices apply only to Mozambiqeu's two main cities: Maputo and Beira. In the smaller towns, where the cost of living is much lower, the retail price increases will be higher.

The changes are part of an economic recovery program, which has already seen a 50 percent wage rise for all workers, and a devaluation of the metical by more than 400 percent.

Norway Grants $36 Million in Relief Aid

MB262056 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Norway is to give Mozambique some $36 million in projects aid and relief assistance. This has been agreed during talks between Mozambican Government officials and a Norwegian delegation in Maputo which ended today. An agreement will be officially signed later today. Under the agreement, $21 million is intended for social, cultural and economic development projects within the framework of bilateral cooperation betwwen Mozambique and Norway.

Norway has also agreed to provide an additional $16 million. Mozambique will benefit from this money through the regional SADCC development alliance. About $3 million of this amount will be channeled to relief agencies for emergency aid to Mozambique.

NAMIBIA

P.W. Botha 'Satisfied' With Pienaar Statements

MB261730 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1600 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, says he is satisfied that the administrator general in South-West Africa, Advocate Louis Pienaar, acted within his power and rights when he issued statements during the opening of the National Assembly in the territory the day before yesterday.

Mr Botha said in a statement issued in Cape Town that Pienaar was continously in contact with him on progress made by the interim government on constitutional development. Before his National Assembly opening address, Pienaar had consulted Mr Botha. Mr Botha said that Pienaar said nothing which he had not already said in personal discussions with members of the interim government.

SWATF Kills 18 SWAPO 'Insurgents' in Skirmishes

MB261309 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1305 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Windhoek Feb 26 SAPA — Security forces in northern SWA/Namibia have shot and killed 18 SWAPO insurgents in several skirmishes in the past week and lost two men in action, the SWA Territory Force said in Windhoek today. The SWATF identified its dead as Rfn Tobias Job, 25, who leaves his father at Unkuni in Ovambo; and Rfn Erastus Simon, 25, who leaves his wife at Ondangua.

According to SWATF statistics, the latest SWAPO fatalities bring to 272 the number of insurgents killed so far this year. The SWATF said in a statement that a group of 20 SWAPO insurgents attacked with RPG-7 rockets and small arms fire the kraal of a Chief Kandume South-west of Ruacana at midnight last Wednesday. The residents fled in terror and the insurgents looted the deserted kraal. Nobody was killed or injured in the attack.

The SWATF statement said security forces, acting on information, uncovered three arms caches in the Okalaongo area. Among the ammunition seized were 118 mortar bombs, the statement said.

SWAPO Announces 78 RSA Casualties in January

MB270748 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] The People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, killed 40 South African soldiers and injured 38 others in January during military operations carried out in Namibia, a territory illegally occupied by South Africa. In a communique issued in Luanda, SWAPO says that its forces shot down 2 helicopters and destroyed 30 military vehicles and a fuel depot, among other war materiel. In the communique, SWAPO rejects reports from the Western press that on 26 January South African forces killed 68 SWAPO combatants in operations waged inside Angola. According to information from military sources, South Africa's persistent aggression against the People's Republic of Angola is (?continuing).

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Denies RSA Role in Contra Arms Supply

MB261846 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1837 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 26 SAPA — Allegations that South Africa was involved in the supply of arms to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua were denied tonight by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha. Reacting to a report last night by the American

ABC television network and to other media reports in South Africa and abroad to this effect, Mr Botha said: "These allegations are untrue. The South African Government has had no negotiations or talks with representatives from the United States or any other government regarding the supply of arms to the contras," he said.

The South African Government had come to no agreement or arrangement with the U.S. Government or any other governments concerning arms supplies to the Central American rebels. Mr Botha said his government also denied it was involved in making available training facilities, manpower or the transport of weapons for the contras.

SAFAIR Denies Supplying Arms to Contras

MB261108 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1056 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 26 SAPA — The managing director of SAFAIR [South African Air], Mr Braam Loots, today categorically denied that his company was involved in arms supplies to the contras.

He said however that SAFAIR had a share in a United States company Globe Air which had leased aircraft to Southern Air Transport, the company which has been accused of supplying arms to the contras.

Mr Loots said that he had been aware that the ABC network was probing the arms allegations. He said the TV network had contacted him in December and he had given it "all the information we have."

"As far as allegations that SAFAIR was involved in flying into Central America it is not true at all.

"It is true that we have a share in a company in the United States called Globe Air which leased planes to Southern Air Transport. Globe Air as the lessor has no say in what Southern Air does with its planes.

"It is impossible for a South African company to operate a South African registered aircraft into the US," he said.

The minister of foreign affairs Mr Pik Botha, said that he knew nothing about the allegations. He had no further comment to make.

Worrall on 'Ideological Vacuum' of White Politics

MB262017 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1933 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Stellenbosch Feb 26 SAPA — The government was both unable to break completely with apartheid or to develop a new vision to put in the ideological vacuum, Dr Denis Worrall, South Africa's former ambassador to London, said tonight. Addressing his first public meeting, which packed the Stellenbosch City Hall to capacity, he was applauded repeatedly when he criticised National Party government's manifesto.

"I sense on the part of white South Africa an eagerness to see this situation turned around. I sense there is a need that this semblance of law and stability we have achieved with national servicemen in the township must be used creatively. My feeling is that the government leaders are missing this fundamental groundswell of feeling in South Africa," he said.

He said he hoped his campaign would send a message to the government that it could move more quickly, to black South Africans a message of hope and confidence and, to South Africa's well-wishers abroad that peaceful answers were possible.

Dr Worrall said white politics had, since union, always been goal-directed and idealistic right up to apartheid. "Now there is no ideology to put in its place. We are in an ideological vacuum. This is a problem with which a large section of Stellenbosch academics are struggling to develop an idea which will make it easier for the ordinary South African to take the leap forward. Also to make it easier for blacks and for foreigners to understand what is happening, because for them the process is totally blind.

"The government is not only struggling to disengage itself from apartheid, but certain elements of race remain built into the structure of South Africa. Group is irrevocably based on race and colour."

Dr Worrall said he believed ethnicity was a process, not a prescribed finality as the government saw it. "And now it is built into constitutional reform, which immediately leaves people of colour with a problem."

The government also refused to acknowledge the democratic reality that South Africa was 40 million people, of which the largest majority were black.

The essence of the coming election was: "The political leaders of the system have lost the initiative and if we do not regain it, it will be difficult to do so on the way down."

He was going to ask for a two-point mandate for the ending of apartheid and political rights for all South Africans. On the other hand, the government was asking for a mandate to continue with reform while the Group Areas Act, one of the most contentious sources of dissatisfaction, was off the agenda. "The government wants to continue negotiating with blacks. But I am not sure that any progress whatsoever has been made in negotiating with important black leaders."

There was loud and prolonged applause when he then said: "But this is also an insult to white South Africans, because it is not neccessary to ask to negotiate with blacks, the need for that is obvious. And when this government asks to negotiate it also rejects one of the most important and impressive products of negotiation — the Natal/Kwazulu Indaba."

Dr Worrall was once again given rousing applause.

Explaining his excuses to critics in London regarding the Group Areas Act, he drew peals of laughter from the audience when he said he had told his listeners: "The President's Council report is expected one of these days."

His decision to return to the uncertainty of public life had been vindicated by government actions, such as the treatment meted out to the Rev Allan Hendrickse, the state president's opening address to parliament, the no-confidence debate and the statement rejecting the Indaba.

"I say — it is not enough.

"I say — white South Africa wants more."

He and the former NP MP for Randburg, Mr Wynand Malan, would soon publish their own manifesto and launch a national campaign of which the details would be made public soon. He personally would concentrate on the Group Areas Act and the Indaba in his Helderberg campaign, as he felt the voters would most positively react to these issues.

Many had asked him why he did not try changing the National Party from inside. "I was inside. But I say that I did try, but there is a measure of arrogance that people will not listen to anyone and others who will listen and hear nothing."

On P.W. Botha's 'Insensitivity'

MB262058 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2018 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Stellenbosch Feb 26 SAPA — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha's reaction to the Menlo Park black athlete incident showed insensitivity to the feelings of black people, Dr Denis Worrall, former South African ambassador to London, said tonight. He hoped his campaign as an independent candidate in the Helderberg constituency by packing the Stellenbosch City Hall with 1200 people who applauded his criticism of the state president and the National Party leadership repeatedly.

Referring to the Menlo Park incident, he said Mr Botha's comment that it happened all over the world, but was blown-up only in South Africa was untrue. "Black boys are simply not barred from participating in sport with their fellow scholars anywhere in the world," he said. "Now my diplomatic colleagues must struggle to explain this to our conservative pals abroad.

"His statement also shows a lack of sensitivity towards the feelings of black people. One has only to compare the realism of the state president on that incident as a leader of the country and the government with the reaction of the head boy and head girl of Menlo Park who expressed themselves in a direct manner with their futuristic viewpoint."

Another problem was that although the state president had erred, there was no one within his political leader group who would point out he was wrong. "That is also one of our problems," he said to tumultous applause.

"If our perception at the top can be so wrong, then we have a problem with our evaluation of fundamental issues and our addressing of them. That explains this government's weak manifesto in such an important election," Dr Worrall said.

Information Chief Blames Problems on Press

MB261704 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The director of the Bureau for Information, Mr Dave Stewart, says news coverage of events in South Africa by the foreign media in the past 18 months was, to a large extent, to blame for the economic and political retrogression in the country.

Mr Stewart told a symposium attended by liaison officers of the national states and developing corporations at Nelspruit that there were more than 200 foreign journalists in the country at present with a vast international audience in the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

He said that while these journalists could not always be blamed for one-sided reporting on South Africa, information was sometimes withheld and a negative picture of events was presented to the world.

Police Hold Zinzi Mandela for Questioning

MB271022 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1020 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 27 SAPA — Police reportedly raided the Mandela home in Soweto today and took Zinzi Mandela, 26, away "for questioning" after allegedly finding a pistol in the house.

A police public relations directorate spokesman in Pretoria would only confirm that police had taken her to Protea police station to be questioned. Her mother, Mrs Winnie Mandela, later went to the station accompanied by a lawyer.

Political Violence Claims 39 Lives in January

MB261658 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1633 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 26 SAPA — Political violence in South Africa claimed 39 lives last month, bringing the total to 2365 since the beginning of September 1984, the South African Institute of Race Relations said in Johannesburg today.

It added that the average daily fatality rate since the political disturbances began in Spetember 1984 was 2.68. The institute stressed that the actual number of deaths could be higher than its statistics indicate, given the difficulties of gathering such data in present circumstances.

Justice Minister Reports 121 Executions in 1986

MB261713 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The minister of justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, says 121 people were executed in South Africa last year. Most of them were men. In a written reply to a question raise in the House of Assembly, he said 89 were black males, 24 colored males, 6 whites males, an Asian, and 1 colored woman. Of the total number executed, 108 were for murder, and 11 for murder with extenuating circumstances. He did not say for what crime the other two people were hanged.

No Comment Made on 'Top' ANC Prisoners' Health

MB261304 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1228 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 25 SAPA — Top ANC prisoners Govan Mbeki and Harry Gwala were both critically ill, Mrs Winnie Mandela said yesterday. Mrs Mandela made the remark in an address to the congress of the National Union of Mineworkers in Johannesburg.

She had received a telex that morning informing her that the two were ill, adding that Mr Mbeki was also completely blind, Mrs Mandela said. The two are serving life sentences with Mr Mandela in prisons near Cape Town. They were both leading figures in the banned SA Communist Party and the exiled South African Congress of Trade Unions.

A prisons service spokesman in Pretoria said: "It is the policy of the prisons service not to comment on the physical care or medical treatment of individual prisoners as it is regarded as a private matter amongst the prisoner, his family and his doctor. The allegation by Mrs Mandela, however, that Mr Mbeki is blind is devoid of all truth."

The spokesman said Mr Gwala and Mr Mbeki were being held "several kilometres" from Pollsmoor, the prison to which Mr Mandela was recently moved from Robben Island.

Almost 25,000 Blacks Attend 'White' Universities

MB261203 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1202 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] House of Assembly, Feb 26, SAPA — Nearly 25,000 black students were enrolled at universities for whites in 1986, the minister of education and culture, Mr Piet Clase, said today. In a written reply to a question by Mr Horace van Rensburg (Ind Bryanston), he said provisional figures showed that 24,867 blacks were enrolled at white universities last year.

Answering another question by Mr Louis Stofberg (HNP Sasolburg), he said that according to statistics supplied by the universities there were 44,728 "non-whites" at white universities under his department in 1986. The number of white students at white universities was 147,329.

ANC's Makatini Speaks on Elections Boycott

MB270642 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] The ANC of South Africa has warned that it will intensify its political and military actions against the Pretoria regime with the fundamental aim of boycotting the May parliament elections for whites only.

Johnny Makatini, a high-ranking ANC official, said in Addis Ababa yesterday that actions against the Pretoria regime will occur both inside and outside South Africa. On the same occasion, he accused some Western countries of strong collaboration with South Africa. In this context, he singled out the FRG which, in his words, is an accomplice in the genocide war against the South African people. Johnny Makatini cited the fact that Bonn provided Pretoria with technology for sophisticated submarines as an example of FRG's complicity.

DPSC Notes Detainee Figures Exceed Estimates

MB261615 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1413 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 26 SAPA — A total of 3989 people were detained under the Internal Security Act the minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, announced in parliament and "these figures significantly exceed the Detainees Parents Support Committee [DPSC] estimates," the DPSC said in a statement.

The number included the "considerable" total of 3512 under Section 50 which provided for short-term preventative detention of up to 14 days.

"In our recent review of 1986 we stated a probable total of 2320 under the Internal Security Act, and put Section 50 detentions at a conservative 1800 (adding that the figure could be as high as 2500)," the statement said.

"Now we find that Section 50 detentions turn out to be almost double our estimate.

"This leads us once again to the conclusion that, far from exaggerating detention figures as we are accused in some quarters of doing, we consistently err on the conservative side.

"The fact that our figures are invariably lower than the actual is not surprising in view of the veil of secrecy drawn by the authorities across the subject of detentions.

"Both the former minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, and the current one, Mr Adriaan Vlok, have on several occasions refused to reveal either Section 50 detentions or emergency detentions on the grounds that it would not be in the public interest to do so.

"This coyness also extends to statistics for the number of minors (17-year-old and younger) who have been detained.

"All 3512 Section 50 detentions will have taken place during the first six months of 1986, a rate of 20 a day.

"It is noteworthy that of the 3512 people detained under Section 50, 159 or 4.5 percent were charged and only 21 or 0.6 percent were convicted of any offence.

"The significance of the extremely high numbers detained under Section 50 during 1986 lies in the use of this section to supplement emergency type powers in non-emergency areas during the

1985/86 emergency and in all areas during the three month period between the two formal states of emergency.

Survey Reveals 25 Percent Black Unemployment

MB261620 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1409 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 26 SAPA — One in every four adult blacks, from the age of 16 and living in the urban areas, is unemployed, according to a recent survey. The survey conducted by Market Research Africa [MRA] showed that about 960,000 blacks are looking for work.

Unemployment was most serious amongst those under 34 years, with an estimated 300,000 between the ages of 16 and 24 and the same number of the 25-to-34 year-group seeking employment. The study found that both men and women had been affected by the recession with over 400,000 of each sex being out of work.

An estimated 1.1 million adult blacks in the urban areas are employed on a part-time basis, 800,000 of whom are males and 300,000 females. A further 125,000 are in part-time work. "The employment trend is still downwards, and it is clear that the improvement in business confidence has not yet filtered through in the form of increased job opportunities," says Miss Angelique Amado, manager of MRA's Omni division.

Buthelezi To Seek Mandate on Indaba Proposals

MB270920 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] The chief minister of KwaZulu, Chief Buthelezi, says he will first have to test the opinions of his people before he is able to decide whether he can accept the KwaNatal Indaba. Chief Buthelezi was guest speaker at a banquet given by the Institute of Bankers in Pretoria yesterday evening. He said that he was studying the proposals at present, but he would not be able to accept or reject them until he had a mandate to do so from his people.

Chief Buthelezi also referred to the proposed national council. He said that all leaders had to be given an opportunity to serve on it. He said that the state president could not prescribe to others in this matter.

Information Bureau Issues 26 Feb Unrest Report

MB270700 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0657 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Pretoria Feb 27 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's unrest situation report for the period 00h01 to 24h00 yesterday:

"Reported unrest-related incidents comprised isolated stone throwing and petrol bomb attacks on private homes and vehicles. No injuries or arrests were reported. Damage was minimal."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

26 Feb Press Review

MB260727 [Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN on Italian Sanctions Vote

"How Italy, of all countries, could support mandatory sanctions is one of those mysteries we cannot explain," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 25 February. "Despite a ban here and a ban there, despite public condemnations from the Italian Government of apartheid, we had no reason to believe that Italy would try to stick a knife into our backs, yet it has done so — and more shame to its government because of this." The paper notes that "members of the Italian community expressed their disgust, one of the leaders summing up the community's viewpoint by saying: 'South Africa has treated us all well and we owe it a deep debt of gratitude.' South Africa has no fight with Italy, no reason to give it offence, no desire to have strained relations with it."

The STAR Critical of Education 'Imbalance'

"It could never have happened in a normal society. While black education facilities remain deficient, white schools have 153,637 empty places; teacher training colleges have room for 2,841 more students; 17 schools stand empty in three provinces," says a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 25 February. "This sort of squandering has been going on for decades — and ironically it could not buy the ideal society that it was supposed to. In fact, it bought empty white schools." "Something pretty drastic needs to be done to redress the education imbalance; responsible leadership would be a great help."

New Move for Negotiated Settlement

"A new political line-up is beginning to take shape in South Africa on both the white and black sides of the total spectrum," notes Allister Sparks in the "My View" column on the same page. "The central issue around which the reformulation is occurring is that of negotiation — of being either for or against the idea of trying to reach a negotiated settlement of the historic conflict between Afrikaner and African nationalism." On the Afrikaner side there are those who believe that "Afrikaner survival should now be sought through negotiation with the blacks" and there are those who "want to fight it out in a last ditch." "On the black side, meanwhile, the sight of the ruling white oligarchy losing its certainty and its cohesion and beginning to yield up some conciliatory elements is producing a responding interest in the prospect of negotiation." Sparks believes that the ANC is not about to "abandon its armed struggle. Indeed, it seems intent on trying to intensify it, but more as a means of increasing the pressures for negotiation than with any realistic hope of being able to win a military victory." There is also an attempt by the ANC to "build a coalition of forces who are in broad agreement on primary objectives so that they can speak with one voice at any future negotiations." The crisis in South Africa has produced some irreversible changes, among which "has been a breakthrough by blacks of the psychological barrier which caused them to doubt their ability to end white domination. Blacks now know that, though it may take some time yet, they are going to win in the end. There has been equivalent end to the monolithic certainty of the whites that they can remain permanently in power.

Apartheid is dead and there is nothing to replace it as a formula for preserving white control."

BUSINESS DAY on Mossel Bay Gas Project

"The Mossel offshore gas project should be treated with caution rather than euphoria," notes a page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 25 February. "To know that Mossel Bay will take the country another step towards self-sufficiency stirs the heart as sanctions tighten in a pre-election phase." But, "it is difficult to justify Mossel Bay on purely economic grounds." However, "the least acceptable argument for Mossel Bay is the political one. If the announcement is designed primarily to win votes (bearing in mind that President Botha's former constituency of George lies within the Mossel Bay catchment area), no further discussion is necessary to reject it."

CAPE TIMES: Brain Drain Price of Apartheid

"A disturbing, but perhaps not unexpected, by-product of the ever-deepening political and economic crisis gripping the country is the growing brain drain from South Africa," says a page 6 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 23 February. "The reasons people have for emigrating are varied and complex, but the endemic unrest and economic stagnation spawned by the government's commitment to apartheid clearly does not help. The current exodus is in fact yet another example of the 'apartheid premiums' citizens will have to pay under the current regime. White voters should bear this in mind when they go to the polls on May 6."

CAPE TIMES: Government Alienated From Afrikaaners

"The National Party government of President P.W. Botha is alienating itself from the intellectual and spiritual leadership of the Afrikaner Nationalist community," says Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 24 February in a page 10 editorial. "History is overtaking the National Party. The personal style and lack of leadership are no longer acceptable to some of the finest minds in the Afrikaner Nationalist movement. And there is no successor in sight who seems likely to do better. The effects will be discernible in the NP's fading fortunes in the May election and in time, we may hope, in the emergence of a broad-based alliance to take over power and save South Africa."

SOWETAN Criticizes House Arrest of Church Leader

"The extraordinary action in declaring the Evangelical Lutheran Church leader Dean Tshenuwani Farisani a prohibited immigrant in his own country shows the lengths the governments of Venda and South Africa will go to perpetuate a myth," says the page 4 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 25 February. "Dean Farisani has not been declared a prohibited immigrant but what has happened is that South Africa has put him under house arrest. We do not recognise the so-called independence of Venda, nor does the rest of the world." "This is a draconian act aimed at punishing a man that the government of Venda has no case against. For if Dean Farasani was such a thorn in Venda and South Africa's flesh, the two countries have an awesome array of laws with which they could have charged him with."

DIE VADERLAND: PFP Not Alternative to NP

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 23 February says "the manner in which the English language newspapers are dealing with the so-called deserters of the NP cannot be all that exciting for the PFP." "It is certainly newsworthy, but to say that it means there is going to be a stampede from the NP appears to be an over exaggeration. The fact that the English press focuses so much attention on this matter indicates that the English press does not nurture much hope for the PFP in the forthcoming election." The paper also points out that the NP defectors are not joining the PFP.

BEELD on Independents' Lack of Plans

Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 25 February says in a page 12 editorial that one who considers democracy for all races but does not consider minority rights "offers a plan for the future but does not offer future security. That is what politics is about: ideals and practice. South Africa can do away with certain legislation. It is true that feelings against the Group Areas Act is on the increase. But when apartheid is finally abolished, what have we then?" "While other parties and independents busy themselves with negative propaganda, instead of vision and workable solutions, they still throw the first stone."

27 Feb Press Review

MB270706 [Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN on White Disunity

"One of the most worrying aspects of the present situation is the disunity among the Whites, a disunity that plays into the hands of the radicals, who, above all else, want the Whites to lose heart and fight among themselves," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 26 February. *The Citizen* believes that it will be difficult to achieve unity when "the ruling tribe, the Afrikaner volk, [people] has split in various directions." "The forces that pulled the volk together are no longer as insistent, the path is no longer as clear, and some of the Afrikaners have become detribalised. To cap it all, Afrikaner nationalism is challenged by Black nationalism." "Among English-speakers, there is similar disunity, but since English-speakers have never been cohesive group, capable of taking over the reins of office, this disunity is of lesser importance." Nevertheless, "the tendency to write off the volk is foolish. It has split often in its history, but its tribal affiliations have pulled it together in times of dire need. This will happen again, we are sure, but it is more likely in the Centre-Right, rather than on the Left or extreme Right."

THE STAR on Homelands

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 26 February says three of South Africa's nominally independent homelands, Ciskei, Transkei, and Bophuthatswana "have recently involved themselves in disputes meant to assert the 'national sovereignty' conferred by Pretoria but recognised nowhere else. The outcome has achieved a degree of international publicity — but in the form of opprobrium rather than recognition. The impasse concerning the Albertini couple and their son held in Ciskei is the latest incident." "Is it a coincidence that all three homelands should be flexing their 'sovereignty' muscles around the same time? South Africa denies any part in the respective problems but even if there were no complicity, the international discredit eventually stops at Pretoria's door anyway. For it was grand apartheid policies that created artificial 'states' out of a common territory and gave them these damaging delusions of grandeur."

Early Namibian Settlement Unlikely

"In principle it is sound that Pretoria is putting pressure on the Windhoek transitional government to produce a constitutional formula which it can take to the polls without further delay," says a second editorial on the same page. "But it would be too hopeful to believe the decades-old Namibian problem might be on the brink of solution. Unfortunately the Angolan civil war, the presence of Cuban troops in Angola and of South African troops in Namibia, and international hostility to apartheid, cloud the prospects of an early settlement. It is meanwhile a bitter irony that South Africa should be pressuring the Namibian government to tackle reforms while at home reform has been halted in the face of unrest and the prospect of a right-wing backlash at the polls."

BUSINESS DAY Urges Mixed Facilities

A page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 26 February says that "if the universities refuse to admit people of other races, some of them will close down. White South Africa is over-supplied with universities, as it is over-supplied with hospitals and schools. As for the Army, it will become blacker or smaller." "Many people make the obvious point that it verges on insanity for SA to continue to try to reserve facilities — whether schools or jobs or military duties — to one race group. A more important point, perhaps, is that black people don't need a revolution; they are gradually assuming control anyway."

CAPE TIMES on NP Leadership Crisis

A page 8 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 25 February says that since the opening of Parliament two dominant features of NP politics have emerged. "The first is that the leadership crisis in the NP has reached serious proportions and will play a major role in the election. Mr Botha's bullying and autocratic leadership style aside, former party stalwarts are now publicly complaining that he lost the will and capacity to lead South Africa out of its growing crisis. The second over-riding feature to emerge from the past session is that reform has ground to a halt. As one predominant Matie [individual from the University of Stellenbosch] academic has put it, the government leadership is still refusing to admit the moral untenability of apartheid. Not many adults have the vote in South Africa, but those who do should use it on May 6."

Worrall To Challenge NP

Anthony Johnson writes on the same page in the "Midweek Politics" column that "nowhere could the implication of a shake-up in the established political order be greater than in the high stakes Helderberg showdown between Dr Denis Worrall [former ambassador to London] and Mr Chris Heunis [Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning]." Defeat for Heunis "would mean the probable political downfall of President P.W. Botha's favoured son and possible successor, and the rejection of the chief custodian of Mr Botha's huge and growing neo-apartheid legacy." "Dr Worrall has indicated that one of the reasons he decided to contest Helderberg rather than a safer Natal seat was his determination directly to engage Mr Heunis in a reasoned debate on the country's constitutional future in a campaign that would clearly have national implications."

SOWETAN on Homelands

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 26 February says that the homeland leaders are displaying "a petulant anger at the world for refusing to grant them recognition. It should surely have tumbled to them by now that no decent country would debase itself by recognising an independence." "The shots are called by Pretoria and these tinpot homeland leaders have to dance to their music no matter how unpleasant it is. Unfortunately for them, they are considered by the world as mere puppets of the South African Government."

DIE TRANSVALER on Inflation

A page 12 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 25 February says the opposition parties and the group of independents do not cease blaming the government for the high inflation rate. "The fact that the inflation rate is decreasing at this stage knocks the wind out of the sales of those who had hoped to profit by the dilemma which the inflation has placed the country in." The paper points out that inflation has to be fought by everyone, preferably through a national strategy."

BEELD on PFP

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans says that the tension is increasing in the PFP as can be seen from the circular sent round in the southern Transvaal saying the party's public image has to be discussed because its '"style is wrong."' *Beeld* believes that the PFP decision not to oppose independents in some constituencies shows that the PFP is afraid to show "its humiliating lack of voter support. For the PFP to right this public lack of support it will first have to undergo a 'heart transplant'; it will have to place its patriotism beyond suspicion, and stop talking about security matters with a forked tongue. Until that happens it will not even help to appoint a 'detribalized Afrikaner' as PFP leader."

ZAMBIA

Two South Africans Among 29 Detained for Bombing

MB270607 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Excerpt] The Zambian police have confirmed that 2 South Africans are among the 29 foreigners detained after the bomb explosion at a post office in Lusaka on Monday. The detentions come after a warning by President Kenneth Kaunda on Wednesday that more people suspected of spying for South Africa would be arrested soon. Seventeen of those held, including two Pakistanis, two Indians, and two Guineans, were detained aboard a train bound for South Africa. [passage omitted]

ZIMBABWE

Foreign Currency Allocations Down 13 Percent

MB261741 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The acting minister of finance, economic planning and development, Comrade Enos Nkala, says foreign currency allocations for the first half of this year have been cut by 13 percent, compared with the same period last year. He also said although the cut will have an adverse effect on the 5-year national development plan, it is still too early to say who much impact this will have on the country's economy. He assured commerce and industry that the government is reviewing the foreign exchange situation with a view to increasing allocations through export promotion and other measures.

Meanwhile, Comrade Nkala, who is also the ZANU-PF secretary for finance, has said no one should organize any fund raising activities without reference the ZANU-PF fund raising committee.